


SPELLSFIELD

(WRIGHTS FORD COUNTRY)

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# Kentucky Counties & Towns

## Springfield

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**SPRINGFIELD, Ky., March 23.**—Washington county is the cradle of Dominicanism in the United States



Ralph Coglian.

and, as such, is of peculiar interest to Roman Catholics. Today there are two Dominican institutions here within a few miles of Springfield, the county seat. One is the priory and parish church of St. Rose; the other is the Academy of St. Catherine of Siena. The priory is named for St. Rose of Lima, the first person of the new world to be canonized. The academy gets its name from one of the outstanding figures of Dominicanism.

The purpose of the priory is to assist in preparing young men for priesthood. Its particular function is to be a school of philosophy. Those aspiring to be Dominican friars spend one year of simple novitiate at St. Joseph's priory at Somerset, O., then take their philosophy at St. Rose, whereupon they spend six years more of study at the Dominican House of Studies at Washington, before they are ready for ordination.

The Academy of St. Catherine is conducted by the Dominican sisters, and is one of the oldest schools in Kentucky. Although teaching is the life-work of these sisters, they frequently have been known to volunteer their services as nurses in cases of epidemics, such as the influenza epidemic in the coal mining camps of Eastern Kentucky in the fall of 1918, and have distinguished themselves by their fearlessness and noble self-sacrifice.

It may be inferred that there is more than one branch of the Dominican Order. As a matter of fact, there are three: first, an order of Preaching Friars; second, an order of Contemplative Nuns; third, Dominican Tertiaries, all of whom are engaged in every known activity for the intellectual, moral and physical development of mankind.

The garb of the friars consists of a white tunic, white scapular and white capuce, or cowl, over which, on occasions of solemnity, is worn a black cappa, or cloak, and black cowl. During the more than 700 years of the existence of the Dominican Order, this habit has remained unchanged. It was worn by St. Dominic, the founder of the order in the thirteenth century, just as it is worn by the latest friar to be ordained in the twentieth.

#### Governmental Features.

It is interesting to note some of the interesting features of the Dominican Order, particularly since it is said that when Thomas Jefferson and other founders of the United States were forming the Constitution, they had before them for guidance and suggestion a copy of the constitution of the Dominican Order. Moreover, certain similarities between the two as they exist today may easily be traced.

Dominican communities enjoy a singular measure of democracy. The priory is governed by a prior (the prior of St. Rose is Father J. S. Wilburn); a sub-prior and a procurator. The prior is elected for a term of three years by all the members of the community who have been professed friars for nine years or longer.

Communities are arranged into provinces. Each province has a provincial, who is elected for a term of four years by the priors of all the convents in his territory, and by delegates, one of whom is designated from each convent. The delegate is chosen especially to represent the sentiment of the friars.

The provincials, in turn, meet every four years to elect the Master General, the highest dignitary of the order. Two other representatives of each province, called the definitors, also participate in the balloting for the election of a Master General.

In the case of the prior his election is subject to approval by the provincial of his province. In the case of the provincial, his election is subject to the approval of the Master General.

Besides the general assemblies held for purposes of election, other assemblies take place for executive and legislative purposes in each of the three units above described.

#### First Democratic Rule.

The government of the Dominican Order, which has been presented in its barest outline, is said to have been the first form of real democratic government by representatives elected by the governed solely for that purpose. People had been ruled by representatives before the Dominican Order was established, but the Dominican Order was the first in which these representatives were chosen from among the subjects solely for that purpose and, their duties fulfilled, resolved themselves back among the number of the governed. This is the same process through which the average American citizen goes when he holds office and, after his term is over, retires to private life.

St. Dominic, the founder of the order, was a native of Old Castile and the descendant of the noble family of Guzman. He was born about 1170 at Calaroga, Spain, and died at Bologna, in the year 1221.

#### An Illustrious Record.

In teaching, the order has an illustrious record. The Dominicans were famous teachers at the University of Paris, University of Oxford, and many other Old World centers of learning when those institutions were Catholic. One need only mention the name of St. Thomas Aquinas, one of the most celebrated fathers of the church, and of Albertus Magnus, a philosopher of the Middle Ages, whose name is perhaps even better known to non-Catholics, to point up the Dominican prominence in both religious and secular education.

In Manila is the University of St. Thomas, founded by the Dominicans in 1645 and still flourishing. In the province known as St. Joseph's, in which St. Rose is located, there are two secular colleges, Aquinas College of Columbus, O., and Providence College of Providence, R. I., besides the theological school already mentioned.

Some parochial work is done by the Dominicans. In Louisville, for instance, they are in charge of the church of St. Louis Bertrand on Sixth street. This province of Dominicans recently has begun preparations for foreign missionary work.

The Dominicans take the usual three vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Their aim in daily life is to emulate and practice the simple life of the early Christians.

#### Early History.

It was in July, 1806, that Father Edward Dominic Fenwick, a member of an old Maryland colonial family who had been educated in Belgium, arrived at Springfield, Ky., to found a Dominican unit. Battling with

the wilderness, he and a few others who joined him, built a priory, and church (the first brick church in Kentucky), and established a junior college and novitiate for twelve boys who wished to study for the order. In 1818 the first four clerical students were ordained at St. Rose by Bishop Flaget, the noted Bishop of Bardstown.

In 1822 a three story building was completed at St. Rose, which connected with the church. The building was used to house a college and the community, and it was not only the first Catholic establishment of its kind west of the Alleghenies, but for many years was one of the largest educational institutions of its kind in the West or South. The college was closed before the Civil war. One of its first alumni was Jefferson Davis, president of the Southern Confederacy.

#### Washington County Lincoln's Birthplace?

Washington enjoys the distinction of being the first county formed after Kentucky was admitted into the Union in 1792. It is located in Central Kentucky, Springfield, its county seat being sixty miles southwest of Louisville on the Springfield branch of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. It was named for George Washington. Marion bounds it on the south, Boyle and Mercer on the east, Anderson on the north, Nelson and Marion on the west.

There is much insistence by citizens of Washington that Abraham Lincoln was born in this county. So strong is this belief that it was not shaken by the exhaustive investigation conducted by Robert Collier which resulted in placing a memorial building over the Lincoln cabin in Larue county and definitely concluding that that was the spot on which Lincoln was born.

Proof is not lacking that Thomas Lincoln married Nancy Hanks in Washington county. In the Washington county courthouse hangs a certificate signed by the Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman "that the following is a true list of the marriages solemnized by me, the subscriber, since the 28th of April, 1806, until the date hereof." It is dated April 22, 1807. Ninth on the list, after a date that appears to be June 14, 1806, are the names of "Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks."

At the time the Collier investigation was proceeding, it was declared the investigators met with apathy in Washington county; that those who were approached to aid in finding the true birthplace of Lincoln did not care to bestir themselves in the matter; that if they had taken the trouble to collect affidavits from old citizens (now dead but then living) who had known the Lincolns and had often declared that they remembered the birth of their first male child, the memorial building would be in Washington county instead of Larue.

#### Lincoln's Own Belief.

Lincoln, over his own signature declared that he was born in Hardin county, Ky. (Larue had not then been created from part of Hardin.) But many Washington county citizens believe that Lincoln himself did not know to a certainty that that was true. The old Washington county citizens referred to had often been heard to point out to visitors the spot where the Lincolns lived and say: "There was born Washington county's greatest son." So far as the world is concerned, the question of Lincoln's birthplace is settled, but Washington county (that is, of course, a good many Washington county citizens), still have grave doubts. When they were here, the Lincolns lived eight miles north of Springfield near Little Beech creek.

*Lawrence Post March 23, 1945*



# Lincoln Was Born In Washington Says Son of Nancy Hanks' Friend

In an old scrapbook in the possession of a Louisville man, compiled in the period between 1870 and 1880, there is a clipping from the Washington County, (Ky.) Herald, published at Springfield, Ky., in about the year 1876, which throws much light on Abraham Lincoln's ancestors and absolute proof of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. The clipping says that the newspaper is indebted for the facts contained in its report to Mitchell Thompson, a resident of Washington County, at that time, and a son of Sarah Mitchell Thompson, who was intimately acquainted with Nancy Hanks before her marriage to Thomas Lincoln. Mr. Thompson is quoted as saying that there is no doubt that Mr. Lincoln was born in Washington County and bases his proof in the following account:

"In the fall of 1790, eight families, while emigrating from North Carolina to the inhospitable wilds of Kentucky were attacked by the Indians twenty-five or thirty miles southeast of Crab Orchard Springs, Ky. Mrs. Naomi

and Abe were uncles of President Lincoln.

## Reared In Berry Home.

President Lincoln's mother's name was Nancy Hanks; his father's name was Thomas Lincoln; they were married in Washington County on the twenty-third days of September, 1806, as shown by the marriage bond and certificate given below. Richard Berry, Sr., the father of Richard Berry, whose name appears on the bond, reared Nancy Hanks. (Nancy Hanks' mother was a Shipley and the wife of Richard Berry was a Shipley.) Hence the guardianship. They came originally from North Carolina, where they lived on the Catawba River in that State.

"Miss Sarah S. Mitchell, the person mentioned as having been captured by the Indians, after her restoration, lived with Miss Nancy Hanks, the mother of President Lincoln, at the home of Richard Berry, Sr., from 1795 to 1799, when she married Mr. Thompson, the father of the relator."

Tradition had it in Washington County in 1876 that President Lincoln was born in Washington County and lived in that county until he was 8 months old when his father removed to Hardin County and that when he was 13 years old his father removed to Indiana and from there to the State of Illinois.

E. B. Head, a compositor on the Washington County Herald in 1876 was a son of the Rev. Jesse Head,

Mitchell, one of the party was tomahawked, but recovered from the effects of the wound. Her daughter, Sarah Mitchell, was taken prisoner at the time by the Indians and remained a prisoner for five years, until Wayne's treaty with the Indians in 1795, at Greenville, O. under the stipulations of which treaty she was restored to her friends. Miss Mitchell married Mr. Thompson, the father of the relator.

"President Lincoln's paternal grandfather was killed by the Indians on Lincoln's Run, in this county, five miles northwest of Springfield. We have no further data as to his death than that he was killed two days before the change in this country of the old English law of descent, giving to the eldest son all the landed estate of his ancestor. Mordecai was the oldest son of President Lincoln's grandfather and under the law inherited all his father's landed estate in Kentucky. Mordecai Lincoln represented Washington County one term in the Kentucky Legislature. Mordecai Thomas

(Concluded on Seventh Page.)

whose name appears to the wedding certificate of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and recalled that the wedding ceremony was family history.

C. Bruce Head, the well-known turfman and owner of the Waldeck Stock Farm, located about sixteen miles from Louisville, near Crestwood, is a grandson of the Rev. Jesse Head and is familiar with the fact that his grandfather married the martyred President's father and mother.

The following is a certified copy of the bond and marriage certificate of Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President, and Nancy Hanks, now on record in the County Clerk's office of Washington County:

"Know all men by these presents that we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, are held and firmly bound unto His Excellency the Governor of Kentucky in the just and full sum of \$50 current money, to the payment of which well and truly to be made to the said Governor and his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, etc., jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this, the tenth day of June, 1806. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly to be intended between the above bound Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has issued, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then this obligation to be void or else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

(Seal)

"THOMAS LINCOLN,  
"RICHARD BERRY.

"Witness: John H. Parrott.

"Copy Attest: W. F. Booker, Clerk, Washington County Court."

"I certify that on the 23d of September, 1806, I solemnized the rights of matrimony between Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks

"JESSE HEAD, D. M. F. C.

"Copy Attest: W. F. Booker, Clerk."

IN the ante-bellum days, and for some time following, Harrodsburg was the most noted place in the South, owing to the famous Graham Spring. As a health resort and a gathering place for tourists, it was second to none. Surrounding the spring is a beautiful natural park.

While the old hotel has given place to one new and modern, the grounds remain with forest trees untouched by the invading hand of man. This old pleasure resort has been the stage setting of many tragic and interesting scenes. One is worthy of mention.

A few rods from the spring is a lonely grave, marked by a stone slab two by six feet in size. When Harrodsburg was at her zenith, before the war, a beautiful young woman came there, having all the evidences of wealth and culture. Because of some unusual event in her life, she refused to tell her name, or the place from which she hailed. Simply called herself the "Unknown." She was queenly and beautiful, entering into all manner of amusements, especially dancing. She would dance for hours. Her end came sudden and in a most pathetic way. She had been dancing for hours and the overstrain proved too much for her tired nerves. She fell dead on the floor. The citizens of Harrodsburg placed a stone over her grave marked "The Unknown."

On an open spot near the old graveyard, mentioned before, stands a log cabin; this cabin might easily divide honors with the famous "Lincoln Cabin," on the Lincoln farm, now inclosed in a beautiful mausoleum and owned by the Nation. This cabin—nearly all the logs being original, was the actual house in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in June, 1806. It was brought from Beechland, Washington County, some twenty miles from Harrodsburg, and rebuilt by the Mercer County Historical Society.

Some good authority believe this to be the cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born, rather than the one so famous. It is claimed that Thomas Lincoln did not go to Harrodsburg so early as 1809, but when he did, there was a babe in arms, born to them before they went. If this be true, there is a big mistake in all the "Lincoln Cabin" business. Another theory is that at the time of Abraham's birth his father and mother were on an extended visit to Beechland, and a tradition comes down to us that Thomas Lincoln was seen in the door of this cabin trotting his baby boy on his knee.

## Dick Berry's Cabin

*See Page 6-26-31*

St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Put together of Kentucky oak and chestnut felled in the clearing roundabout, it stands no larger than a prairie corn crib. Dick Berry's cabin was rude and rough, but it was there that Nancy Hanks became a June bride 125 years ago. There she and Thomas Lincoln stood before the Rev. Jesse Head, a Methodist district circuit rider of the backwoods, to hear the words that made them man and wife. The place was near Harrodsburg, the oldest Kentucky town, the only town of colonial times this side the Alleghenies. Forty miles to the west was to be the other cabin, the one at Hodgenville. Now the lowly place where that frontier troth was pledged has likewise become a people's shrine preserved from the weather in a colonial temple. For as Governor Sampson of Kentucky said at the dedication, "Everything that belongs to Lincoln belongs to the nation." His State makes no mistake about Dick Berry's cabin. It does—every splinter of it.

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*Shelbyville Times Jul 13 1931*  
*74.*



# COUNTY CHURCH WILL CELEBRATE CENTENNIAL

All-Day Meeting Planned For Next Thursday At Pleasant Grove; A Number of Former Pastors Are on Program.

## CHARTER MEMBERS NAMED

Thursday, August 3, 1933, will be a red letter day in the history of Pleasant Grove Presbyterian Church, located five miles North of this city, on Willisburg Road. On that day members of the congregation, former members, their relatives and friends will assemble at that historical edifice to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of its founding.

A special program has been planned for the occasion, which is expected to attract the largest crowd that ever assembled there, which includes talks by a number of former pastors and friends of the congregation. Mr. J. N. Sanders of Stanford, a son of the Rev. Dr. Miles Sanders, who was for many years pastor at Pleasant Grove, will make a talk on the history of the church; Prof. Thompson will tell of its charter members, and a number of others will give interesting talks on matters of importance relative to the church and its membership. The Rev. Dewey Kimbel, pastor of the Springfield Presbyterian Church, will be master of ceremonies.

At a meeting on February 9, 1833, in an old log house that stood near the present Pleasant Grove Church building, the first meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a church in that community. There were eleven persons present at that meeting, including the Rev. Samuel Lynn, a pioneer minister of this county. Others attending were James Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Daniel Mitchell, William Mitchell, Jane Mitchell, Mrs. John Walker, Mary Jones, William D. Jones, Stephen C. Browne and Mary E. Browne.

At this meeting a petition was drawn to be presented to Presbytery of Transylvania asking to be admitted as a church, the name of which was to be known as "Beechfork," and its charter members the persons above named. The petition was recognized, a permit granted, and the members duly elected and ordained as its first elders, James Thompson, William Mitchell and Stephen Browne. Mr. Browne also was appointed as clerk of the session.

The Rev. Samuel Lynn continued

as pastor of the newly organized church until 1838, or about five years.

At some undetermined date between 1839 and 1843, the name of the church was changed to "Pleasant Grove," which name it has retained until the present. Minutes of the meeting at which the change in name was ordered were destroyed by fire many years ago, together with all valuable records of the church, which proved an irreparable loss.

At this point it might be stated that land for the church yard, the cemetery and one acre to be used as the site for a school, was donated by Stephen C. Browne.

In 1900 the old church building was remodeled to conform with the more advanced ideas of modern church buildings, and in 1912 land was secured and a manse erected a short distance from the church. The land on which the manse is located was donated by the late Judge B. L. Litsey, Henry and Bruce Keene. This property is now one of the most attractive of the rural homes in that community. The church now has a membership of eighty-four.

During the one hundred years of its existence, the church has had fifteen pastors and two supplies, as follows:

Rev. Samuel Lynn, 1833-1838.  
Rev. Geo. W. Coon, 1839-1843.  
Rev. Joshua Green, 1843-1844.  
Rev. G. W. Cheney, 1845-1856.  
Rev. Benjamin C. Cark, 1856-1857.  
Rev. W. W. Duncan, 1858-1860.  
Rev. Miles Sanders, 1860-1880.  
Rev. W. Y. Davis, (Dates Omitted).  
Rev. W. D. Heddleston, (Dates Omitted).  
Rev. W. T. Overstreet, 1893-1908.  
Rev. Herman Jones, Supply, (Dates Omitted).  
Rev. H. S. Hudson, Supply, 1910-1911.  
Rev. Willis Thompson, 1912-1916.  
Rev. J. E. Park, 1917-1922.  
Rev. F. M. Kincaid, 1923-1926.  
Rev. G. M. Morrow, 1927-1928.  
Rev. A. J. Van Wyk, 1929-1932.  
The church has no pastor at the present time.

Attention is invited to the fact that the pastorate of the Rev. Miles Sanders was a joint pastorate with the Presbyterian Church in this city and, it might be safely said, with due respect to all mentioned, no single minister stands out more prominently in the memory of the older members of both the Pleasant Grove and Springfield churches, perhaps, than Miles Sanders, who was for so long a revered citizen of this city and Chris-

tian worker in the county, and it is quite a coincidence that his son, now a distinguished citizen of Stanford, is to have a part in the celebration of the anniversary of the church his illustrious father served so faithfully for two decades.

Nine of the pastors of the Pleasant Grove Church are still numbered among the living. They are Dr. Heddleston, Rev. Overstreet, Rev. Thompson, Rev. Park, Rev. Kincaid, Rev. Morrow, Rev. Hudson, Rev. Jones and Rev. Van Wyk. Five of this number will take part in the centennial celebration, which should be an inspiration to each of them.

The program for the centennial, which begins promptly at ten o'clock Thursday morning, follows:

Welcome Address, Rev. Dewey Kimbel.

Response, Rev. A. J. Van Wyk.

Devotional, Rev. Herman Jones.

"History of Pleasant Grove Church," J. N. Sanders.

"Charter Members," Prof. Stith Thompson.

"The Christian Home," Rev. H. S. Hudson.

The morning program will be followed by lunch on the ground and a fellowship hour, during which old friends will meet and old acquaintances be renewed and reminiscences enjoyed.

The afternoon program will begin at 2 o'clock, at which time the Rev. F. M. Kincaid will deliver the main sermon of the afternoon, which will be followed by communion and songs.

In turning the pages on which is recorded the membership of this historic church, which has withstood the ravages of time, we find among the number names of families long prominent in the history of our county, including the Thompsons, Reeds, Litsseys, Brownes, Keenes, Leachmans, Duncans, Yankeys, Gregorys, Reddings, Noes, VanArsdales and Walkers.

An invitation has been extended all members, former members, their relatives and their friends to bring lunch and join the members in this day of celebration, of good fellowship, instruction and inspiration.



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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
TO BE ORGANIZED HERE**

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A meeting of all persons interested in the formation of an association to be known as The Washington County Historical Society will be held in the Christian Church on next Monday evening at 7:45 o'clock. The Rev. Orval Baylor, whose articles on Washington County history have appeared in The Sun during the past few weeks, will act as temporary chairman of the meeting. There will be several short addresses and a permanent organization will be perfected. The sponsors of the movement for the formation of the society hope to make Washington County the mecca for hundreds of tourists who now pass us by not knowing that here lies the original Lincoln Country of Kentucky, rich in history, traditions and folk-lore. It is hoped that the meeting on next Monday night will be largely attended.

Aug 17, 1933

# HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEMS A CERTAINTY

Large Crowd of Interested Persons  
Attended Meeting Monday Night;  
Committee Named to Draft  
A Constitution.

## OBJECTIVES ARE CITED

*Spencer Sun Aug 14 1937*

A large crowd, many of whom were from the Lincoln's Run and Beechland section of the county, attended the meeting in the Christian Church on last Monday night in response to a call for the assembling of folk interested in the formation of a Washington County Historical Society. The Rev. Orval W. Baylor was elected temporary president and Raymond Thompson temporary secretary. A committee composed of Mr. Joe Polin, Mr. Hambleton Tapp, and the president, was named to draft a constitution. A committee on Plans and Objectives was named and instructed to report at the next meeting which will be held in the Court House on Friday night, September 1st. An interesting program for that meeting will include an address by an outstanding student of Lincoln family history.

The Rev. Mr. Baylor presided as temporary chairman of the meeting and in his preliminary remarks discussed the neglected opportunities which lie at the door of Washington County. No section of our State is as rich in Lincoln lore as is Washington County and no section has neglected its golden opportunities any more than Washington County, according to the Rev. Baylor. "Truly, a Prophet is not without honor save in His own country," he said. A little interest and effort on the part of the citizens of our county would result in making the Lincoln's Run and Beechland section of the county a mecca for thousands of visitors every year, the minister said. He termed that section "The original Lincoln Country of Kentucky."

Brief talks were made by Joe Polin, Hugh Brown Gregory, Hambleton Tapp, and others. Mr. Polin said that the first objective of the society would be to place a replica of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky on the banks of Lincoln's Run and a suitable marker on the spot where tradition says that Abraham Lincoln, Sr., grandfather of the President, was killed by an Indian in 1788. It is hoped that this shrine will be ready for dedication in the early part of next year. President Franklin D. Roosevelt will be invited to deliver the dedicatory address.

All of the folk present at the meeting on Monday night signed the roll as charter members of the newly formed society. It was voted to keep the charter roll open until after the meeting on September 1st, that others who desire to enroll as charter members may do so. An attractive certificate of membership will be prepared and a copy of the certificate will be given to each member of the society.

The newly formed society is determined to advertise the original Lincoln Country of Washington County and this section so long neglected if plans of the society materialize will soon take its place along with Harrodsburg and Hodgenville as a great attraction for the thousands of Lincoln admirers who visit Kentucky each year from all parts of the country.

# Lincoln Memorial Is Being Planned

## MEETING WILL BE HELD HERE FRIDAY NIGHT

Historical Research Director For  
Lincoln Foundation, Nationally  
Known Authority, Will Be  
Principal Speaker.

### CONGRESSMAN IS INVITED

Considerable interest is being manifested in the meeting to be held in the Court House Friday evening of this week and plans for opening and developing the original Lincoln Country of Washington County under the direction of the newly formed Washington County Historical Society are rapidly taking shape. No project that has ever been launched in our midst has met with more wholehearted response than that which has for its objective the development of the Lincoln's Run and Beechland section—a section rich in Lincoln history and traditions.

Sponsors for the newly formed society have been busy completing plans for the meeting on tomorrow night. Permanent officers will be nominated and elected; committees will be appointed; the charter membership roll will be completed, and plans for the future will be announced. It is planned to make Springfield the gateway to the original Lincoln Country and every effort will be made to get the proposed Lincoln Memorial Highway extended from Hodgenville through the Lincoln Country here and on to the Todd family home in Lexington.

One of the first moves of the Historical Society will be to establish suitable headquarters here in Springfield. The headquarters will not only serve as the meeting place of the society but will also become the depository for old records, books, pictures, relics, etc. An appeal will be made tomorrow night for every citizen of Washington County to search for such articles of historical interest and bring them to the headquarters where they will be properly catalogued and put on display.

The first unit of the proposed development in the Lincoln Country will include a replica of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky on the banks of Lincoln's Run. This cabin will be constructed and furnished as near like the original as possible. An old cabin, very similar to the Lincoln house, now standing in the Lincoln's Run neighborhood has been secured as a gift to the society and it will be moved to the site of the Lincoln cabin. The furnishings of the cabin will be in keeping with the appraisers list of the estate of Abraham Lincoln, Sr., filed in the Nelson County Court, March 10, 1789. The furnishings there mentioned are: Flax wheel, pair smoothing irons, one dozen pewter plates, two pewter dishes, Dutch oven and cule, hand-saw, drawing knife, currying knife, currier's knife and barking iron, old smooth-bar gun, rifle gun, feather bed and furniture, steeking-iron, candlestick and axe.

On the same plot of ground with the replica of the old cabin, there will be

another building of logs with at least two large rooms, with large fireplaces. The furnishings of this house will be antique. A color sketch of the cabin and its surroundings as it will appear when ready for use, will be shown at the meeting tomorrow night. The acreage in connection with the memorial will be sufficient so as to provide ample space for picnics, reunions, etc.

Down Lincoln's Run about a half mile from the cabin the spot where Washington County tradition says Abraham Lincoln, Sr., grandfather of the President, was killed by an Indian, will be marked with a rock monument supporting a bronze tablet. A footpath will lead from the cabin to this site. On a knoll about three hundred yards from the marker where the massacre occurred, another stone will mark the spot where an old cabin, once the home of the Brumfields, kinfolk of the Lincolns, stood at the time Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married. It was from this cabin that tradition says Thomas Lincoln walked along the ridge to the Berry house on the day of his wedding.

The principle speaker at the meeting on tomorrow night will be Dr. Louis A. Warren, of Ft. Wayne, Ind. Dr. Warren is Historical Research Director for the Lincoln National Life Foundation. He is nationally recog-

nized as an authority on Lincoln history and is a fluent and forceful speaker. An invitation has also been extended to the Hon. Cap R. Carden, of Munfordsville, Representative in Congress, to be present as a guest of the society. The business session will begin at 7:30 and the speech-making will follow as soon as all business has been disposed of.

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## ABE LINCOLN GUN IS FOUND

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Relic Plowed Up On Lincoln Farm  
In This County Believed To Be  
Property of Grandfather  
Of President.

*Springfield Sun City 1 1933*  
Last week an old gun barrel was found on the farm where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in 1806, and where tradition says they lived until after their son, Abraham, was born in 1809. The gun bears the name "A. Lincoln," indicating that it was once the property of the President's grandfather and probably passed to Thomas Lincoln as a part of his share of his father's estate after the pioneer Lincoln was slain by an Indian on Lincoln's Run in 1788.

Local people who have seen the old gun barrel consider it a valuable find. The inscription on the gun corresponds with that which is said to have been on the old powder-horn that was about the neck of Abraham Lincoln, Sr., when he was slain in 1788 and it is probable that this was the gun that the old pioneer carried.

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# SURVEY MADE FOR PROPOSED MEMORIAL SITE

Owners of Land Needed By Lincoln  
Society Will Convey Acreage  
Free of Cost; Landscaping  
Plans Under Way.

## OFFICE WILL BE OPENED

*Springfield Sun Sept 14 1933*

An enthusiastic meeting of the Executive Committee of the Washington County Historical Society was held in the Court House on last Thursday afternoon. The meeting was held at the call of the president, the Rev. Orval W. Baylor. More than 20 members of the committee were present.

Announcement was made to the committee that a survey had been made of lands on Lincoln's Run and that Mrs. Virgil Hanby and Mr. J. L. Moran, present owners of the land would convey the desired acreage to the society for Lincoln Memorial purposes free of any cost. This announcement was received with enthusiastic applause. The surveys made include land on both sides of the Run and the entire tract contains approximately five acres. In addition to this the society has taken an option on some additional land adjacent to the memorial tract to be used for parking and commercial purposes. The society intends to retain all of the commercial privileges and whatever revenue may accrue therefrom is to be used for the upkeep of the memorial park.

Plans for clearing and landscaping the memorial tract are now in process of formation. The Society's memorial project is to be officially known as The Washington County Lincoln Memorial Project. An executive committee, composed of the following members of the society, will direct the development: O. W. Baylor, Joseph Polin, R. A. Noe, Raymond Thompson, C. J. Haydon, Sr., and Dewey Kimbel.

The nine general officers of the society were authorized and instructed to prepare and cause to be filed with the County Clerk and the Secretary of State Articles of Incorporation for the Society. These articles were prepared Monday by Judge W. F. Grigsby, Joseph Polin and Marshall Duncan and taken to Frankfort on Tuesday for filing there.

Headquarters for the society will be opened this week in the room above the McElroy, Wharton and Boldrick, Insurance Agency. All persons having old relics, papers, pictures, etc., of historical interest and who wish

to loan such to the society are requested to bring same to the headquarters. All matters of business of the society will be conducted from the headquarters and it is planned to have the room open every day with the exception of Sundays. The committee on relics, under the direction of Miss Emma Nunan, historian, and Miss Ella Shaunty, librarian, will have charge of the reception, cataloging and displaying of all material loaned to the society. Old pictures of persons and sites associated with the history of Washington County are especially desired. Old antiques, reminiscent of bye-gone days, will add to the attractiveness of the collection and anything that tradition connects with the Lincoln family will be of special interest. Old books, newspapers, magazines, letters, almanacs, etc., are desired for the library of the society.

A committee on finance whose task will be to raise funds with which to carry forward the Lincoln Memorial Project has been named by the president of the society. Mr. G. C. Wharton is chairman and the other members of the committee are: Will Waters, W. D. McElroy, R. E. Foster, J. A. Boulware, John Polin, C. F. Bosley and Mrs. Scott Mayes. This committee is now considering plans for raising sufficient funds with which to commence work on the society's tract on Lincoln's Run.

A committee on landscaping and fencing is now engaged in perfecting plans for clearing and beautifying the grounds. This committee is composed of Mrs. Eloise Gregory, Chairman; Mrs. W. D. McElroy, Mrs. J. F. Pettus, Mrs. Troll Young, Miss Naomi Rodgers, Theo Campbell, J. F. Pettus, John Smothers, J. L. Moran and Lester Hanby.

A triangular piece of ground, containing approximately one acre, has been acquired by lease for parking space and commercial purposes. This tract is opposite the Lincoln's Run School on the Springfield pike. Entrance to the Memorial Park will be through this tract. Supervision of

(Continued on Page 5)

## SURVEY MADE FOR MEMORIAL (Continued from Page 1)

concessions and parking will be under the direction of a committee composed of S. B. Yeager, Chairman; H. B. Gregory, J. H. Barnes, Mrs. W. C. McChord and Mrs. A. M. Beckner.

The next public meeting of the historical society will be held in the Court House on Tuesday night, September 19, at 7:30 o'clock. The committee on program has secured a speaker of note for that meeting and it is hoped that a large crowd will attend.

## EARLY LINCOLN HOME TO BE PARK

### Cabin Replica Will be Built Near Springfield.

Springfield, Ky., Sept. 14.—Kentucky motorists and tourists from other States may add another historic show-place to their itineraries for 1934, according to an announcement of the executive committee of the Washington County Historical Society in session here yesterday. Plans for developing and advertising the Lincoln country of Washington county were presented and adopted by the committee.

The historical society has acquired the land on which Abraham Lincoln, Sr., grandfather of President Lincoln, built the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky in 1782. On a little knoll, overlooking Lincoln's Run, a tributary of the Beech Fork, the society will erect a replica of the cabin which was torn down many years ago. The logs for the cabin will come from a cabin that now stands on the farm once owned by Richard Berry, Sr., uncle of Nancy Hanks. This cabin was erected before 1790. Two old springs, still in use, from which the Lincolns obtained their water supply, will be covered by log spring houses.

Down Lincoln's Run, about a half mile from the cabin site, is the spot where Washington county tradition says the pioneer Abraham Lincoln was slain by Indians in 1788. A large stone bearing a bronze tablet will be placed there and a flagstone walkway will lead down to the run from the cabin site. A rustic bridge will cross the stream at the site of the massacre and the return to the starting point will be along the opposite bank of the run. *Elbow News 9-15-33*

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# EXTENSION OF THE "LINCOLN" HIGHWAY ASKED

Historical Society Seeks To Have  
Proposed Route Pass Through  
This City And Original  
Lincoln Territory.

*Springfield Sun*  
**TENTATIVE ROUTE GIVEN**  
*Sept 21 - 1933*

Extension of the proposed Lincoln Memorial Highway to include the Original Lincoln Country of Washington County would mean much to this community. It is impossible to estimate the importance of a highway such as that which is now being located to connect the Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois homes of Abraham Lincoln and every effort will be made by the Washington County Historical Society to have that highway pass through Springfield and the Lincoln's Run and Beech Fork section.

Aside from the historic interest involved in the location of the road, it will have a great utility value. With the Kentucky terminal at Lexington and the Northwest terminal in central Illinois, it will bring thirteen States in the Union within a radius of two hundred miles of its course.

The diagonal route of the highway will intersect at least four great north and south highways from the lakes to the Gulf, and two east and west highways from coast to coast. Its general direction from northwest to southeast will make it available to groups traveling in any direction, and it will further serve as a distributing highway of importance.

The Kentucky Commission is composed of John P. Haswell, Louisville, Chairman; W. A. Baskett, Brandenburg; Charles J. Hubbard, Hodgenville; D. E. McClure, Louisville, and Otis M. Mather, Hodgenville. They have had several meetings and have gone over several highways which have been suggested as possible routes of the migration. The local committee named to present the claims of Washington County expects to have the Kentucky Commission visit this section in the near future and go over the proposed route through the Beech Fork section.

A tentative route which would connect this section with the other communities related to Lincoln history is as follows:

1. Lexington—Home of the Todds. Lincoln's wife was Mary Todd. From thence to;

2. Harrodsburg—Site of the Lincoln Marriage Temple. From thence to;

3. Perryville—Passing the old battle ground and on to Mackville.

4. From Mackville to intersect the Springfield-Willisburg Road near the Pleasant Grove Church and from thence to;

5. The crossing of Beech Fork at Beechland. From thence passing the old spring and the site of the Berry cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married and where they spent the first weeks of their married lives. Thence over the Beechland and Springfield pike passing the old Berry home (now the Moran home) where Nancy Hanks lived and grew to young womanhood. Thence to;

6. Lincoln Memorial Park on Lincoln's Run. Site of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky; the boyhood home of Thomas Lincoln; scene of the massacre of the President's grandfather in 1788. Thence to;

7. Springfield—Where Jesse Head lived. Where the Marriage Bond and Minister's return of the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks may be seen in the Clerk's Office. Thence to;

8. Bardstown. Thence to;

9. Hodgenville and Birthplace Memorial.

The Indiana and Illinois Commissions have completed their routes. The Kentucky Commission expects to have its report ready within the near future. Getting Washington County on the route depends upon speedy action on the part of the citizens of Washington County in the development of the Historical Society's Lincoln Memorial Park project.



# Capacity Audience at

## Historical Meet at Courthouse

Author of Numerous Books Relating  
To Lincoln Was The Principal  
Speaker On The Program  
Friday Evening.

Sept 7-1933  
Washington County has never experienced a more enthusiastic meeting of citizens brought together from all parts of the county than that held in the Court House on last Friday evening, September 1. It was the second meeting of the newly-formed Washington County Historical Society. Every seat was taken and many people were forced to stand.

The proposed constitution for the society was presented by Joseph Polin and the document was adopted without revision. At the close of the meeting nearly 150 people went forward to sign the document as charter members of the society. Articles of incorporation are now being prepared and the names of all of the charter members will be included in the list of incorporators.

In accordance with the constitution, the society then proceeded to elect permanent officers who will serve until the first Monday night in September, 1934. The offices designated by the constitution and the persons elected by the society are as follows: President, Rev. Orval W. Baylor; 1st vice president, Joseph Polin; 2nd vice president, Mrs. H. B. Gregory; secretary, Raymond Thompson; treasurer, W. D. McElroy; historian, Emma Nunan; librarian, Ella Shaunty; Chaplain, Rev. Dewey Kimbel; Sgt. at Arms, Theo Walker. Additional members of the executive council are Marshall Duncan, W. F. Grigsby, J. L. Moran, John Polin, J. F. Pettus, C.

J. Haydon, Sr., J. A. Boulware, G. C. Wharton and Dr. J. B. Overall.

A report of the Committee on Plans was read by R. A. Noe and consideration of the report was postponed until the October meeting. The Rev. Mr. Baylor spoke briefly of the objectives of the society. He said that suitable headquarters for the society would be opened immediately and urged that all persons having old relics, letters, pictures, books, etc., give or loan same to the society for display purposes at the headquarters.

The principle address of the evening was delivered by Dr. Louis A. Warren, of Ft. Wayne, Ind. Dr. Warren is the author of numerous books and pamphlets relating to the Lincoln question. He complimented the people of Washington County for their interest in the project to put the county on the map and said that he knew of no movement that would be received with greater acclaim by all who are interested in Lincolniana than that which has for its chief objective the opening of the "Original Lincoln Country of Kentucky."

The next meeting of the society will be held on the first Monday night in October. The program committee hopes to have another speaker of national reputation for that evening. One feature of the meeting on last Friday night that attracted the attention of all present was the well-executed color sketch of the society's proposed memorial to mark the spot where the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky was erected by Abraham Lincoln, Sr., in 1782. This sketch was painted by Mrs. H. B. Gregory and is now on display in the window of Rob-

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 1)

ertson's Sundry Store. From the painting one may get an idea of how the first unit of the Historical Society's development of the Lincoln's Run and Beech Fork country will appear when opened to the public.

According to an announcement of the executive council of the society, no plans are now being considered beyond the completion of the first unit. The society does not intend to enter into competition with Harrodsburg or Hodgenville respecting the marriage house of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and the birthplace of President Lincoln. If Washington County succeeds in marking the site of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky and the spot where the pioneer Abraham Lincoln was slain by an Indian in 1788 it is believed that will be sufficient to attract thousands of visitors and that in so doing the county will appropriately honor the "Great Emancipator" and his forebears.

\* \* \*

**New Historical Society.**

An historical society has been formed in Washington County that has, for its announced objective the development of tourist interest in the original Lincoln country and the marking of spots associated with the forbears of President Lincoln. Washington County figures in an outstanding way in Lincoln history, and the work of the society will be followed with unusual interest.

The society plans to erect a marker on the spot where, in 1782, the first Lincoln cabin was built by the grandfather of the Emancipator, for whom the latter was named. It is also the purpose of the society to mark the spot where this Lincoln was killed by an Indian, in 1788.

The cabin in which Abraham Lincoln was born is inclosed within an ornate national shrine near Hodgenville, Larue County, and what is known as the Lincoln Marriage Temple, housing the modest log hut in which the parents of Abraham Lincoln were united in marriage, stands in Fort Harrod Pioneer Park at Harrodsburg, Mercer County. The Washington County Historical Society disavows any intention or purpose of competing with either of these attractions, and only plans to co-operate with the others by establishing additional Lincoln points that may be visited by those interested in the pioneer activities of the noted American and his forbears in Kentucky.

Outstanding among the historic Lincoln documents is the marriage license issued to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, among the records in the Washington County Court House at Springfield. It is kept under glass and has been viewed by thousands of sightseers, tourists and others interested in anything that pertains to the Lincoln family history. In other ways

Washington County has figured in interesting chapters in Kentucky history, and the newly formed historical society should find much to engage the membership in that field.

\* \* \*

**COURIER-JOURNAL,  
OCTOBER 1, 1933.**

# WORK PLANNED IMMEDIATELY ON MEMORIAL PARK

*Springfield Sun. - Oct 6 1933*  
A Replica of First Lincoln Cabin  
To Be Erected on The Original  
Site On Lincoln's Run In  
The Near Future.

## OLD LOG CABINS WANTED

Work on the first unit of Washington County's Lincoln Memorial Park is expected to commence within the next ten days. This was definitely decided at the public meeting of the Washington County Historical Society in the Court House on Tuesday night. Recommendations of the Committee on Grounds and Landscaping were received and approved. The recommendations call for the erection of a replica of the first Lincoln cabin on the original site on Lincoln's Run and the placing of a marker on the spot where Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the President, was slain in 1788. It is hoped that the cabin and marker will be ready for dedication early in November.

The meeting on last Tuesday night was attended by a large number of members and interested friends of the society. It was the regular October meeting of the society. A number of new members were enrolled.

A resolution was presented and adopted committing the society to the work of beginning and completing the first unit of the Memorial Park on Lincoln's Run before any other development is undertaken. This means that the society will content itself with the development of such acreage as it has already acquired and the development of any additional acreage or sites must await State or Federal aid which will probably not be forthcoming for a number of years. The society now owns approximately six acres on Lincoln's Run. This site will be cleared and developed and efforts will be made to secure a good road to the entrance of the park. A number of persons will be put to work immediately clearing the land, building fences, landscaping, erecting the cabin, etc.

The finance committee was instructed to launch a drive for funds with which to finance the erecting of the cabin and other improvements on the memorial tract. The goal was set at \$1,000. This sum will enable the society to purchase needed material and employ a landscape architect to properly lay off the grounds.

A committee composed of Joseph Polin, S. B. Yeager and Rev. Dewey Kimbel was named to confer with local R.F.C. and N.R.A. officials relative to the allotment of laborers for work on the project.

The society will need a number of old log cabins from which suitable logs may be secured to be used in the erection of the Lincoln cabin as well as other buildings on the memorial tract. Any person desiring to donate such logs should confer with Rev. Orval Baylor, president of the society.

It was announced that that an old watch made in 1780, and of the same make as the timepiece carried by President Lincoln, had been loaned to the society. An old pistol, used in the Revolutionary War, has also been placed in the society's historical collection. The society also announces the gift of an original love letter from Abraham Lincoln to Mary Todd. These and many other interesting relics may be seen at the headquarters of the society on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 2:30 to 5 p. m.



## SUCCESS PREDICTED

Editor Mack Hutton of The Harrodsburg Herald, than whom few are more familiar with all phases of historical research work and the efforts attending the establishment of memorials, has the following to say in regard to the work of the Historical Society in this city and county, predicting success for the task undertaken:

"A few weeks ago The Springfield Sun, ably conducted by Editors Smith and Moran, had three items on history, the fifteenth installment of a feature column on History of Washington by Rev. Baylor and an editorial on the duty of the citizens to preserve history.

"We were much pleased to learn that some choice spirits of that county have organized a historical society. We dare to say that more good results will grow out of its organization than any single thing started in recent years in that county. In what they are undertaking far more can be accomplished through the society than by a Chamber of Commerce.

"They are taking up a task which we now predict will be successful. It is securing and marking the 'Land of Lincoln' and calling it 'Lincoln Memorial Park.'

"The way to make history pay is to put it before the people. That is the way to make anything pay. While historians of Washington County will enjoy their thrill at finds in their historical hunts into the treasurehouse of history in the county, they will contribute much to the public interest and will rouse an interest in their country from outside sources, an interest which will draw people there to set foot on the land on which the elder

Abraham Lincoln was slain by the Indians; the land on which Thomas Lincoln found his wife; and the land where, the immortal Abraham Lincoln was probably born. They will stop at the spring and imagine the scenes that must have taken place there some one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty years ago. Of the emotions that stirred the Lincolns; of their hopes and ambitions. Of the marriage scene when Thomas and Nancy were pronounced man and wife by that interesting man, Rev. Jesse Head. From this scene the drama will shift to the boy, Lincoln, and in turn to the ambitious young lawyer and later to the White House at Washington. And the musing on these scenes will be beneficial.

\* \* \*

"What is history? What is this intangible commodity in which they are interested and which they propose to make the public interested? It is the record of human events—the relation of incidents in which others moved and acted, and the results of which movements have a bearing on our present day existence. The historian is ever seeking to connect us with the past. He seeks us as a companion to walk with him back into the past and have the same thrills he has in the acquaintances formed in history.

"By inheritance, as Kentuckians, we are independent. We like to think of ourselves as individualists. The historian tries to show us that we are debtors—debtors to the past. Debtors for what we enjoy today. If successful he be in this, he may be able to force us to see our obligation to leave an inheritance to our posterity—of liberty, opportunity and idealism."

Springfield Sun 10-19-33



## OLD LINCOLN MYTH

In publishing an item recently about the finding of an old gun barrel with the name "A. Lincoln" on it on the farm where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in 1806, The Springfield Sun remarks that this gun was probably once the property of the President's grandfather and passed to Thomas Lincoln as part of his share of his father's estate. This is likely enough, but The Sun repeats that ancient tradition that the pioneer Lincoln was "slain by an Indian on Lincoln's Run (Washington County) in 1788."

For some time there was a controversy over whether the elder Lincoln was killed in Jefferson or Washington County, but painstaking research seems to have proved that the tragedy occurred in the former. The facts that seem to prove it are these: Lincoln owned a 400-acre farm on the Long Run of Floyd's Fork, adjoining Hughes' Station, a pioneer fort; he owned no land in Washington or Nelson. A record left by Maj. Bland W. Ballard of Hughes' Station tells of a man being killed near the fort by an Indian in 1786 and that his family soon thereafter moved to Nelson County, which then included Washington. Mordecai Lincoln, in a suit at law, declared his father died in May, 1786, and a subscription list for arming and equipping a George Rogers Clark expedition against the Indians, dated September 18, 1786, signed by residents on Long Run, included a gun, the gift of "the Widow Lincoln." The first note of Bathsheba Lincoln's name in the records of Washington County is in 1792.

It may still be recognized that a controversy exists over the place of the elder Abraham Lincoln's death, although the Filson Club and practically every biographer recognize the Jefferson County site, but surely there is now no doubt about where the younger Abraham Lincoln was born. The Springfield Sun, referring to the farm at Beechland where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married, speaks of the tradition which says they lived there until after their son Abraham was born in 1809. There is definite evidence, of course, to the contrary, for Thomas Lincoln had bought two farms in Hardin County before 1809 and was living on the second and paying taxes there. This was the famous Rock Spring, or Sinking Spring, farm on the south fork of Nolin River, which the United States Government has recognized with a stately memorial. There is no excuse for repeating the error about other "birthplaces."

*Common sense Oct. 22 1933*

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*Common sense Oct. 22 1933*  
It would be just as reasonable to

# LINCOLN STORY BRINGS COMMENT

Courier-Journal Editorial Writer  
Declares Statements Based On  
Tradition Only But Fails  
To Cite Proof.

*Spencer Sun Oct 26, 1933*

Washington Countians need not be unduly alarmed over an editorial which appeared in last Sunday's Courier-Journal, in which the claims of our county relative to the site of the massacre of Abraham Lincoln, Sr., were challenged, according to a statement handed to The Sun today by the Rev. Orval W. Baylor. No new evidence has been produced and Jefferson County's claim rests where it always has, viz, on a presumptive basis.

The editorial in question was styled "Old Lincoln Myths," and it was therein alleged that the people of Washington County are "all wet" in relation to the Lincoln question. The writer of the editorial declared that "painstaking research seems to have proved that the tragedy occurred in Jefferson County, though he failed to cite any concrete proof in the form of court records to sustain his declaration."

In this statement to The Sun, Rev. Baylor said, in answering the writer of the editorial in question:

"The truth is that careful and considerate research has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the President's grandfather was not killed on Long Run as some claim nor did he meet his death in 1786 as the editorial suggests. No Lincoln historian or 'pains-taking' examiner of public documents has ever found a single court record to substantiate the Long Run theory. Plenty of documentary evidence has been uncovered to discredit the theory. All of this I shall present in my next installment in The Sun's weekly historical feature section."

Joseph Polin, County Attorney, in discussing the Courier's editorial, said that some years ago when Dr. William E. Barton and Senator Albert J. Beveridge, Lincoln authorities of international repute, were yet alive, both of these men conferred with him in his office here and that the question of the site of the massacre was discussed. Mr. Polin had drawn a plat of the Lincoln's Run and Beech Fork section which both Barton and Beveridge used when writing their

books on Lincoln history. The three men were looking at the plat on the day mentioned by Mr. Polin and he is authority for the statement that Dr. Barton placed his finger on the site where the Washington County Historical Society is now erecting a replica of the original Lincoln cabin and said: "Senator, I am convinced that there is where the grandfather of the President met his death."

Readers of The Sun will await with interest the installment promised by the Rev. Baylor for next week's issue while in the meantime the work of creating Lincoln Memorial Park on Lincoln's Run goes forward in a fine way.

## THANKS, MR. BOLDRICK

The Courier-Journal declares "there is no excuse for repeating the error about other "birthplaces," in referring to an article appearing in The Sun concerning Abraham Lincoln, to which we might say, with due solemnity, the most probable error was made by the United States in recognizing the Hodgenville site as "the birthplace," since Washington County has ample evidence to substantiate our contention, including a receipt for taxes paid on the Lincoln property herein questioned for the year 1810 but that is a matter of record which did not secure for us the coveted memorial.

Continuing, the writer refers to other "Old Lincoln Myths," including the death of the President's grandfather, which was so ably answered in Monday's Courier-Journal by Judge Samuel J. Boldrick, to whom we extend thanks, it is useless for The Sun to make further comment, except to state recent efforts to establish a Lincoln Memorial in this county have aroused Nation-wide interest and much enthusiasm.

It is not the intention of The Sun or members of the Historical Society here to deprive any community of any honors, deserved or undeserved, it may have received because of its association with the Lincolns. We have the original Lincoln Territory here and of this we will not be deprived, let us hope, and because of which, let us hope, we will receive recognition justly due, both locally and nationally.

We appreciate the solicitude of The Courier-Journal about our mythology; the courtesy of Judge Boldrick in our defense.

*Spencer Sun Oct 26, 1933*



## WASHINGTON COUNTY IN LINCOLN LORE

The Washington County Historical Society is developing a park on Lincoln's Run, a tributary of Beech Fork, on land formerly owned by the family of Abraham Lincoln, and is to dedicate a memorial to this family on Thanksgiving Day, according to present plans. Here Bathsheba Lincoln, grandmother of the President, and her five children lived, the farm being in the name of Mordecai Lincoln, her eldest son. Thomas Lincoln, the President's father, lived here for a number of years as a boy and young man and in this same vicinity married Nancy Hanks. The cabin in which this marriage took place was moved some years ago to Harrodsburg, and that town capitalized it by enclosing it in a brick and stone memorial.

The Springfield correspondent of The Courier-Journal makes the mistake of asserting as a fact that Abraham Lincoln, the President's grandfather, was killed by Indians in Washington County in 1788. He should at least have taken note of the controversy over the matter. If he had cared to, he might have referred to Lincoln biographies which come to another conclusion altogether.

Albert J. Beveridge states unequivocally that Capt. Abraham Lincoln was killed by an Indian on his farm near Hughes Station, Jefferson County, and discusses the evidence at length in a footnote. William E. Barton devotes four pages to discussing the claims of Washington and Jefferson Counties and mentions two others, one for Hardin County, which he dismisses without comment, and one from a great-grandson of the pioneer, J. L. Nall, of Carthage, Mo., that the elder Abraham Lincoln died within the present corporate limits of the city of Louisville. This also is called a mistake and much proof is set forth that the Revolutionary soldier was slain on his farm near where the Long Run Baptist Church now stands. Perhaps the greatest living Lincoln authority, William H. Townsend of Lexington, agrees with this and repeats it in one of his books. Louis A. Warren, the most indefatigable investigator of Lincoln lore in the United States, searched court houses in Kentucky and other sources of documentary evidence for years and came to the conclusion that the pioneer was slain in Jefferson County, summarizing his evidence in this fashion:

A suit filed by his son, Mordecai, in 1787 says Capt. Abraham Lincoln died in May, 1786, without a will. The family tradition says he was killed by an Indian on his farm near a fort to which his second son, Josiah, ran for help. A record in the Durrett historical collection at the University of Chicago reports the slaying of a settler in exactly that fashion on Long Run in 1786 and says his family

later moved to Nelson County. Lincoln owned land on Long Run at that time. He never owned land in Nelson County, from which Washington County was carved in 1792. Another paper in the Durrett collection is a subscription list drawn for the support of George Rogers Clark's expedition against the Wabash Indians in September, 1786, and among the residents of the Long Run vicinity who contributed appears the "Widow Lincoln," who gave a gun valued at £8. The widow and her family apparently did move to Nelson County, for in 1789 she listed the personal property of the slain pioneer in county court. They then lived on the farm on Beech Fork.

A Springfield dispatch says a monument is to be erected "at the place where the President's grandfather was slain" in Washington County. It would be unfortunate if a dogmatic inscription were to be carved or affixed thereon. There have been too many of these. Even the walls of the birthplace memorial display biographical statements which appear now to be mistaken. 10/29/92

### "OLD LINCOLN MYTHS."

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.  
Your editorial appearing October 22 on "Old Lincoln Myths" has attracted my attention. You seem to think it quite certain that Abraham Lincoln, Sr., was killed at Hughes Station on Long Run in Jefferson County, Kentucky, in May, 1786. No one knows positively where or the date he was killed. The tradition in Washington County places the date in the spring of 1788, near Beechland sometimes called Poortown. It would seem from the fact that administration of his estate was granted in 1789 in Nelson County, Kentucky, which then embraced Washington County that Lincoln died a resident of Nelson County. Then why wait for three years to appoint an administrator? But you say Mordecai Lincoln, the eldest son, gave his deposition that his father was killed in 1786. Yes, that is true, and it was to his interest to do so. The statute repealing the primo geniture Act went into effect in Virginia, January 1, 1787. This statute was much resented by the eldest sons and there are cases in Kentucky and Virginia where the first born son endeavored to set aside the act by showing that the father died before the act became effective, when, as a matter of fact, the death occurred after January 1, 1787.

If Abraham Lincoln Sr., was alive in 1788, then the fact that "Widow" Lincoln gave a subscription to equip the George Rogers Clark expedition in September, 1786, falls to the ground and this lady must have been the widow of some other Lincoln.

But there is evidence that Abraham Lincoln, Sr., was alive in the spring of 1788 and signed a bond at St. Asaph in Lincoln County in that year. Mr. Lucient Beckner, a prominent member and director of the Filson Club, and always accurate, wrote an article several years ago giving the facts about the Lincoln County suit.

There is another tradition to the effect that Abraham Lincoln, Sr., went to Lincoln County in the spring of 1788 to look into a land grant which he held on the Upper Green River and on his return from St. Asaph stopped at a station called Sandusky on Pleasant Run and was there killed by the Indians and was buried on the hill back of the station. If this be true the grandfather was traveling home after attending to his business on Green River when he met his death.

In regard to the claim of Washington County being the birthplace of President Abraham Lincoln, the alleged facts are fully set forth in affidavits published in The Courier-Journal on June 17, 1906.

SAMUEL J. BOLDRICK,  
Louisville. Oct 24 1933

## LINCOLN PARK IS ATTRACTING MANY VISITORS

Landscape Architect Conferred With  
Committee Tuesday and Suggested  
Plans For Development of  
Pioneer Homestead.

### SOCIETY MEETS FRIDAY

Approximately one hundred persons visited the Lincoln Memorial Park site on Lincoln's Run on last Sunday afternoon, according to a report handed to The Sun by one of the officials of the Washington County Historical Society. It was a beautiful afternoon and many people took advantage of the opportunity to see for themselves what progress has been made. We are also informed that each day of this week a number of visitors have been shown about the park area.

Workmen have finished walling one of the two springs of clear, cool water that furnished the water-supply for the Lincoln household many years ago. The work has been favorably commented upon by all who have visited the park site. The most of the park area has been cleared of brush and weeds and visitors may walk about with ease.

On Tuesday a representative of the State Park Commission visited the park site here and conferred with members of the committee in charge of development. Some valuable suggestions were made by the visitor and because it is planned that at some future date the park site will be turned over to the State of Kentucky to become a part of the State Park system, the local committee and the State Commissioner's representative will work together in the development of the site.

As a result of the conference on Tuesday, it now seems probable that Washington County's Lincoln Memorial will be developed with the view to making and advertising it as "Lincoln Homestead Park; A Typical Pioneer Kentucky Farm." In addition to the log house, there will be a log shelter such as the Lincolns must have used for their horses and cows; a log meat house, a tool shed, the family garden, and such other features as were typical of pioneer days in Kentucky.

The park committee has secured an old log house which, in spite of its age of a hundred or more years, is still in a splendid state of preservation. It is the old John Walker home built about the year 1800. The house was later owned by Francis B. Mitchell, a kinsman of the Lincolns, and by Robert Goatley, and others. It is a two-story structure with two immense fireplaces. Inside it measures 18x24. The house will be taken down and moved to the park site where it will be rebuilt. Each part of the house will be numbered before the structure is taken down so that it will be possible to rebuild it as it now stands.

The entire park area is to be fenced and when the house has been rebuilt and furnished, a small admission fee will be charged. This will be necessary in order to maintain the park and assure future developments.

On tomorrow night, Friday, the regular monthly meeting of the Historical Society will be held in the Court House. The meeting will begin at 7:30 o'clock. A capacity crowd is expected. Judge Chas. Corn, of Harrodsburg, will be the principle speaker. A comprehensive report of the work at the park site will be made by the Rev. Orval Baylor, president of the society. The meeting will be called to order before the old altar that was used by Jesse Head and other pioneer Methodists in the church of that faith that was erected in Springfield in 1817.

### DEER SEEN IN LINCOLN RUN SECTION OF COUNTY

A deer was seen Thursday afternoon on the farm of J. L. Moran in the Lincoln Run section of this county. He is said to have been about the size of a suckling calf and headed toward Little Beech. It is believed he may be feeding in the wooded hills on Lincoln Run and along Little Beech.

Farmers in that community are requested not to molest the deer if seen again, since that is a fine section for deer and it may be there are others in the vicinity. It is not known where the deer came from but it is probably one of the number released on the Bullitt County game preserve.



# "LINCOLN" ROAD TO BE IMPROVED AS NRA PROJECT

Plea of Historical Society Given  
Cordial Reception And Prompt  
Action Wednesday by State  
Highway Body.

## MEETING SATURDAY NIGHT

*Springfield Sun-Herald - 33*  
The Washington County Historical Society was assured Wednesday that an improved highway from Springfield to the site of Lincoln Homestead Park on Lincoln's Run will be a reality when the park is opened for the tourist season next spring and summer. The Kentucky State Highway Commission, upon recommendation of its chairman, Hon. Ben Johnson, voted to recommend to Federal authorities in Washington that the road be built immediately and it will be designated as "Kentucky Project Number One" in response to a request from the Federal government that additional highway projects be selected, the expense of labor and materials to be borne by the government. This means that the old Frankfort Road, now known as the Springfield and Beechland Road, will be improved, the work to commence as soon as necessary plans and arrangements can be made.

Noting that the Washington officials had requested the Kentucky Highway Commission to select a number of projects on which work could be started immediately, the Rev. Orval Baylor, president of the local historical society, called a meeting of the various officials of Washington County on Tuesday morning. It was there decided that a delegation would immediately go to Frankfort. The delegation was composed of Circuit Judge T. Scott Mayes, County Judge H. E. Case, County Clerk John M. Smothers, County Attorney Joseph Polin, State Representative James I. Peter, and Rev. Baylor.

On Tuesday evening a conference was held with Mr. Johnson and he immediately agreed to give the Rev. Baylor a hearing before the Commission on Wednesday morning. He assured the local delegation that he was sure that the request for an improved highway to the park site would be granted but that he wanted the entire membership of the commission to hear just what the Washington County Historical Society proposes to do in the way of establishing a Lincoln Memorial Park in this county.

On Wednesday Rev. Baylor and Joseph Polin appeared before the Highway Commission. Rev. Baylor presented the plea for an improved highway and at the conclusion of his remarks the commission unanimously approved the suggestion of Mr. Johnson that the improvement be recommended to the Federal officials in Washington as "Kentucky Project Number One." Mr. Baylor and Mr. Polin were assured that just as soon as the Washington officials have approved the project work will be started. In commenting upon the matter the Rev. Baylor said:

"Of course, we are highly elated and we are very grateful to the commission as a whole and to Mr. Johnson in particular. The cordial reception given us by Mr. Johnson on Tuesday and his whole-hearted cooperation at the meeting of the commission on Wednesday paved the way for the approval of our project. We are now assured that while we are getting our park ready for dedication and the hundreds of visitors who will come next year, the construction of an improved highway leading from Springfield to the park site will also go forward.

"There are a few important details that must be worked out before work can be started. The present roadbed will necessarily have to be widened. This means that the property owners along the route must agree to set their fences back at least thirty feet from the center of the road. While I have not talked with any of the owners, I feel sure that they will be willing to cooperate with us. Many of them have told me that they have hoped and prayed for a good road and with their cooperation their prayers will be answered and their hopes realized."

Just how far the road will be improved and where its Northern terminus will be is still to be determined. At least five miles, the distance from Springfield to the park site, will be constructed. Additional improvements will depend upon future plans of the historical society with regard to the development of the Lincoln Country. Improvement of the road will not only provide a highway to the park but it will mean that quite a number of jobs will be open to the now unemployed men of this county.

Under the agreement between Washington officials and the Kentucky Highway Commission, the Federal government will furnish the money for labor, materials and equipment needed.

A meeting of landowners along the right of way, and others interested in this project, will be held at the Court House in this city Saturday evening of this week at 7:30 o'clock. All are urged to attend, as prompt action is necessary to get work started.

Work on the park project has gone forward from day to day. The rock foundation for the log house that is to be built on the site of the original Lincoln cabin has been laid and workmen are now busy constructing the house. Interest in the work has increased from week to week and every favorable day a number of visitors may be found at the park. On last Sunday more than 100 are reported to have visited the site and there were several cars from other States.

## DEBATE FEATURE LINCOLN MEETING

Historical Society Plans Interesting  
Program for Assembly in January;  
Fiscal Court Takes Over The

Park For County.

*Spangler Sun Dec 7, 1933*

The regular monthly meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held at the Court House on last Tuesday evening. In spite of the rain a fair-sized crowd gathered. In the absence of the chaplain the meeting opened with prayer by the president, the Rev. Orval W. Baylor.

A report of the committee in charge of the Lincoln Memorial Park project was received and discussed. The report embodied the following features:

1. The Fiscal Court of Washington County was asked to take over the Lincoln Park land held by the historical society, to hold and develop same. This the court, by an unanimous vote, agreed to do. Title to the land is therefore now vested in the county.

2. To proceed with the development of the park the court ordered that the sum of \$200 be set aside for that purpose and that an application for Federal aid be filed with the Civil Works Administration.

3. Pursuant to the court's order an application for aid was prepared by Judge H. E. Case, County Attorney Joseph Polin and the Rev. Mr. Baylor. This application was approved by the local Civil Works Committee and sent to Louisville to be considered by the State Administrator. Some revision was made by the State Administrator whereupon the project was approved.

4. Approximately \$7,000, the principle part of which is to be used for labor hire, has been appropriated by the Civil Works Administration. Thirty-seven men will be used for a period of sixty work days.

5. With the services of 37 men available for sixty days it will be possible for the county to open the park for the season of 1934 provided a sum of \$500 is raised by popular subscription to insure the purchase of necessary materials. The finance committee of the society was instructed to proceed immediately with the work of soliciting that the necessary funds may be in hand within the next week or ten days.

The men supplied by the Civil Works Administration have been at work for several days and considerable development is noted. The log house that stands on the site of the original Lincoln homestead cabin is nearing completion. Six thousand clapboards, sufficient to cover the house and the pavilion or club house arrived from Taylor County last Friday. Excavating for the basement and foundation of the club house is under way. The park area is now enclosed with a modern wire fence fastened to metal posts. The roadways adjacent to the park are being widened and improved and the old bridge over Lincoln's Run is to be replaced by a larger and more substantial one.

The next meeting of the society will be held on the first Tuesday night in January. A feature of that night's program will be a debate with two speakers for the affirmative and two for the negative. The subject will be, Resolved: "That the War Between the States was of more importance than the War for American Independence."

The speakers for the affirmative will be Joseph Polin and Pat Grigsby. The Rev. Dewey Kimbel and Marshall Duncan will argue for the negative. Each speaker will be limited to ten minutes. Twelve members of the society will be selected to sit as judges.

## VANDALISM AT LINCOLN PARK

Damage to Spring And Spring House  
Necessitated Extra Work on Part  
Of Several Workmen; Arrest  
Of Guilty Expected.

*Springer 8 Dec 9 1933*

The Sun has been informed that vandals did considerable damage at the Lincoln Memorial Park site on last Saturday night and again on Sunday night. Damage to the spring and Spring-house necessitated considerable work on the part of several workmen. Other damage to the grounds and fence was reported. Some material was stolen.

Some information which may lead to the arrest and conviction of the vandals has been turned over to the sheriff's office. Park officials called attention to the fact that the law provides for a heavy fine or imprisonment or both for trespassing on park property and they are determined to prosecute any and all persons who violate the park rules. A reward of ten dollars will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any persons caught trespassing on the park area or damaging the park property.

The experiences of the past week have forced the park committee to adopt certain rules with respect to visitors. A guard will be maintained day and night. No one other than workmen employed at the park will be permitted to enter the grounds without permission is first granted by the supervisor. Any person found on the grounds in violation of this rule will be considered a trespassor. Members of the historical society and all other interested folk will experience no difficulty as a result of this rule. It is regretted that such steps must be taken but the destructive tactics of a few have forced the committee to take every precaution to protect the park area.



# NINE PROJECTS HERE APPROVED BY RELIEF BODY

Seven County Roads Will Be Worked  
By Jobless Men Under Approval  
Of C.W.A.; Two Streets to  
Be Surfaced.

## 337 MEN GET EMPLOYMENT

*Springfield Sun Dec 14, 1933*

A total of nine projects, two in this city and seven in Washington County, have been approved by the Civil Works Administration for immediate work through the local re-employment agencies, which will give work to 337 men.

The projects approved are as follows:

Project No. 118-1, Lincoln Memorial Park. 37 men employed.

Project No. 118-2, Road from Mooresville to Mt. Zion. 22 men.

Project No. 118-3, Road from Springfield to Lincoln Park. 50 men.

Project No. 118-4, Road from Willisburg Road via Litsey to Hardesty. 50 men.

Project No. 118-5, Texas Road. 52 men.

Project No. 118-6, Road from Mackville to Willisburg. 40 men.

Project No. 118-7, High Street in Springfield from City Limits on West to Cross Street, and Grundy Avenue from Walnut Street to Polin Road. 12 men.

Project No. 118-8, Lawrenceburg Road to Tatham Springs. 52 men.

Project No. 118-9, Bearwallow to Manton. 22 men.

All of these projects are now under way or will be started soon. Work orders have been received on the last projects approved and as soon as unemployed can be assigned and tools assembled, work will be under way.

Several projects have been under way for some days and each is said to be going forward with clock-like precision. The workmen are endeavoring to give full value for each work hour put in, which increases the value of the undertaking, results of which will be lasting improvements needed badly on each of the projects being improved, thus eliminating any objectionable feature to the C.W.A. reemployment programme.

A number of projects have been submitted the State C.W.A. for approval but have not been approved at this time.



# PLANNING FOR DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL PARK

Lincoln's Birthday Selected As The  
Tentative Date; Work Is Rushed  
To Have Everything Ready  
For Ceremonies.

## ROADS BEING IMPROVED

*Springfield Sun Dec 14, 1933*

Tentative plans have been made to dedicate Washington County's Lincoln Homestead Park on February 12, the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's birth. Work at the park site will be pushed as rapidly as possible and it is thought that everything will be in readiness for the February date.

As Lincoln's Birthday comes on Monday, the committee in charge will ask the several pastors of Springfield to preach a Lincoln sermon on Sunday morning, February 11. It is pointed out that there is scarcely a religious body that did not make some contribution to Lincoln. While President, he was a regular attendant at the Presbyterian Church; his father, reared on Lincoln's Run in Washington County, died a loyal member of the Christian Church; his mother, reared in the Berry home in the Beech Fork country, was a Baptist; his father and mother were married by Jesse Head, a Methodist; and his first school teacher, Zacariah Riney, a pioneer Washington Countian, was of Catholic faith.

Perhaps no site connected with the chain of Lincoln Shrines will attract a larger number of visitors on February 12 than the Original Lincoln Country of Washington County. Certainly no other section will have more to offer. Visitors to Lincoln Homestead Park may see the site of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky. They may walk over the ground where Thomas Lincoln, the President's father, was reared. They may see the monument which marks the traditional site of the massacre of A. Lincoln, the President's grandfather, and view the long-forgotten grave that Beech Fork residents of a generation or two ago pointed out as that of the pioneer Lincoln. They may visit the house in which Nancy Hanks was raised under the watchful eye of her uncle and aunt, Richard and Rachel Berry. From thence to the quaint old log house built by Francis Berry in 1795,

where Thomas Lincoln wooed and won the attractive Nancy; and, last, but by no means least, they may visit the site of the little cabin near Beechland in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy were married.

The log house which marks the site of the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky on Lincoln's Run is nearing completion. The club house will be finished before the dedication date and everything will be ready for the gala event. Three good roads will afford ample approach for the opening. Visitors from Louisville and the North may come over the Bloomfield Road to Valley Hill School and then eastward to the park. The distance from Louisville to the park, via High Grove and Bloomfield, is approximately 62 miles. The Lincoln Road from Springfield to the park is now being improved. It is 5 miles from the Court House to the park over this road. The improvement of the road from Mackville to Willisburg, and also that leading from the Hopper place to Polin, via Beechland, will enable visitors from the northeastern and southeastern sections to reach the park easily.

# RESEARCH MAN SEEKS DATA ON LINCOLN FAMILY

Government Has Historical Worker In  
County Checking Old Records And  
Gathering Information As a  
Guide For Action.

## BANQUET BEING PLANNED

Washington County's efforts to create a memorial in honor of Abraham Lincoln and his forebears has attracted wide-spread interest; so-much-so that the Federal Government has sent one of its historical research workers here to gather all available data pertaining to the Lincolns. This worker will remain here until all of the records of Washington County have been combed and every existing record relative to the Lincolns and their kinfolk has been copied.

An interesting explanation of what the Federal Government proposes to do in the way of gathering and preserving all available Lincoln data was given to the members of the Washington County Historical Society at the regular monthly meeting of the organization at the Court House on last Tuesday night. The meeting was well attended by members and friends.

Col. Lucien Beckner, Louisville, head of the Lincoln Research Work in Kentucky, was the principle speaker at the meeting. One of his assistants, Dr. I. N. Reed, who is to carry on the research work here during the next few weeks, was also presented to the assembly. Both Col. Beckner and Dr. Reed expressed their admiration for the interest and work that Washington Countians are manifesting and doing in the way of putting the county on the map.

Col. Beckner spoke of the numerous outstanding public men who have come from our county, mentioning in particular Felix Grundy, Gen. Matt Walton, W. C. McChord, and Prof. George W. Colvin.

The society voted to observe the 125th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on Monday, February 12th, with a banquet and a historical program. The president was authorized to name the necessary committees and his appointments are as follows:

Place and menu: Mrs. J. F. Pettus, Mrs. C. F. Bosley, Mrs. Dewey Kimbel, Reservations: Naomi Rodgers, Mrs. T. Scott Mayes, Emma Nunan; Historical Pageant: Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Mrs. Frances Shultz, Mrs. Troll Young; Speaker: Joe Polin, Rev. Dewey Kimbel.

A report of the progress of the work at the Lincoln Homestead Park site was made by the president, the Rev. Orval Baylor. He said that the log house is completed and ready for the furnishings. Work on the pavilion is now under way and every effort will be made to complete the park in time for dedication during the early spring. It is probable that if the pavilion is ready before the 12th of February the anniversary banquet will be held at the park. Recent visitors to the park site have commented favorably on the work already done and each day's work adds to the attractiveness of the site.

# Plans Complete For Big Lincoln Banquet Monday

Dinner Here The First of a Series  
Of Similar Celebrations That  
Will Be Held During The  
Present Year.

## TOM WALLACE WILL SPEAK

*Springfield Sun 2-8-34*

The one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth which occurs on next Monday, February 12, will be celebrated throughout the nation by Lincoln Clubs and historical societies, but nowhere perhaps, will there be a more colorful gathering than that scheduled to be held in Springfield.

With a historical background, unrivaled by any other community associated with Lincoln history, Washington Countians will gather in the Presbyterian assembly room at 6:30 o'clock next Monday evening. Our live-wire county historical society is sponsoring a Lincoln Birthday Dinner and indications are that it will go down in history as one of the outstanding historical and social events of our community.

In a gaily decorated room, with the rugged and determined, yet kindly face, of Honest Abe looking down upon them, many of our citizens will join in paying tribute to "The Scion of Lincoln's Run." The dinner this year will mark the first of a series of several similar celebrations that have been planned for Springfield and Washington County during the present year.

An atmosphere of pioneer days will pervade the assembly as various persons, characterizing the prominent citizens of the Lincoln Era in our county, are introduced and seated at a table reserved for them. The spirits of the pioneer Abraham Lincoln and his wife, Bersheba, grandparents of the President, will walk again in the midst of their Beech Fork friends

and neighbors. Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, and their son, Abraham, and his wife, Mary Todd, will be there, too. Richard Berry, Sr., and Rachel Shipley Berry, uncle and aunt of Nancy Hanks; Sarah Mitchell Thompson, Nancy's cousin; Jesse Head, and several other, are included in the retinue.

Tom Wallace, editor of The Louisville Times, nationally known as a writer and speaker, will deliver the sole address of the evening. The program provides for an invocation by the Rev. Dewey Kimbel, chaplain of the historical society; introduction of the speaker by the Rev. Orval W. Baylor, president of the society; the address by Mr. Wallace, and the singing of "Old Kentucky Home."





# Was LINCOLN Born at Beechland ?

By Orvai W. Baylor

As the 125th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln draws near and preparations are being made for a general observance of the day the controversy over the birthplace site that has persisted for many years, flares anew. Historians have tried to settle the question, and the most of the Lincoln biographers insist that it has been settled. But—has it?

I have been asked to present for the readers of The Sun, the claims of Washington County, based upon old and seemingly well-founded traditions. In doing this I do not want to be put in the position of dogmatically insisting that Abraham Lincoln was born in the Beech Fork neighborhood of Washington County. I could not and I would not assume such a position without some concrete documentary evidence upon which to base any argument to that end. Many of my friends have insisted that I put in writing all of the material relating to the birthplace question that I have gathered during my months of investigation and research in the Lincoln Country of Washington County. That I now propose to do.

Confronted on every hand, as we are, with arguments to refute Washington County's claims, and with nothing more than traditional evidence to support those claims, it appears that ours is a hopeless case. Every available record in Hardin and Larue Counties has been siezed upon and brought forward to support the claim that Lincoln was born in Hardin, now Larue. But, with all the efforts directed to that end, the fact yet remains, viz, that many of the Hardin and Larue records cited have little, if any, bearing on the birthplace question, and to assume that Lincoln was born in Hardin, one must rely chiefly upon presumptive and hearsay evidence.

Granted that Thomas and Nancy Lincoln did not settle down in the Beech Fork neighborhood, and that Abraham, their son, was not born there, what reasonable excuse can we give for, and by what plausible process of reasoning do we explain away, the fact that from generation to generation, in not one but several families, there has been handed down the tradition that they did settle there, and that Abraham Lincoln was born there?

Shall we say that the traditional evidence of the Berrys, the Litseys, the Hardestys, the Mitchells, the Thompsons, the Moodys, the McAlisters, the Kellys, and many other families, all blood-kin of Nancy Hanks, is less reliable than the hearsay evidence siezed upon and used by historians to bolster the Hardin and Larue claims?

One wonders just what reason there was for the origin and perpetuation of the story among the above mentioned kinfolk of Thomas and Nancy Lincoln, if it were not founded upon truth. The story was current in Washington County before Abraham Lincoln rose to power and prominence and undying fame. It originated with such respectable and trustworthy characters as William Hardesty, Kittie Moody, Sarah Mitchell Thompson, Mary Gregory Litsey, and others, previous to Lincoln's nomination in 1860.

Certainly, it cannot be maintained, that there was any desire on the part of these Washington County kinfolk of Abraham Lincoln to capitalize on whatever fame he might have acquired, for, he was not famous when they first talked about his parents' wedding, their settling down, and his being born in Washington County.

Politically, Abraham Lincoln was not popular in Washington County. The very people who spoke of his birth and said that it occurred in the little cabin near Beechland, refused to vote for him in 1860. Only one man went to the polls and cast his vote for the Lincoln-Hamlin electors. But, there were many people who gathered about the polls on that fateful election day in 1860 and who talked about the remarkable circumstances that had combined to make the Beechland-born son of Thomas Lincoln, the nominee of the Republican Party for the Presidency of the United States.

## William Hardesty Remembers

Among the attendants at the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks at the Francis Berry home in 1806, was a lad of eight years. That lad was William Hardesty. His home was just across the river from the Berrys and he had disobeyed a parental admonition not to attend the wedding and had gone to the Berry house that day "to see Tom Lincoln married."

Many years afterward, when the lad of 1806 had grown to manhood and had married and was the father of several sons and daughters, he frequently spoke of the Lincoln-Hanks wedding. One of his sons, the late Wm. T. Hardesty, used to say that he had often heard his father tell how as a boy, he had slipped away from home to attend the wedding and infare at the Berry home near Beechland, and how his mother had whipped him for disregarding her admonition to stay away from the affair.

Now William Hardesty not only spoke about the wedding of Thomas and Nancy, but he also spoke of some subsequent events in their lives. He seems  
(Continued on Page 6)



to have been a favorite of Thomas Lincoln and as such, learned considerable about the affairs of the Lincoln family. Historians, while they have accepted Hardesty's story relating to the wedding in 1806, have been loathe to credit what he said with respect to other events in the lives of Thomas and Nancy and their offspring.

From all reports, William Hardesty was as honourable, as truthful, and as respected as any man who has ever lived in Washington County. He was possessed of a modest and retiring nature and not given to boasting. He was noted for his ability to "mind his own business, work hard and take care of his family." He was no notoriety-seeker, and in fact, during his lifetime, there was no opportunity for such and little reason for him or anyone else to seek the limelight by fabricating stories relating to the Lincolns and their kinfolk.

William Hardesty was born March 5, 1798, and on the 4th day of August, 1888, at the ripe age of 90 years, he passed to his eternal reward and his remains were buried in the graveyard near Hillsboro Meeting House. As previously noted, he was 8 years old when Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married in 1806. In 1809, when Abraham Lincoln, son of Thomas and Nancy, was born, Hardesty was nearing his 11th birthday.

#### "First Years" And—?

Now, we come to that part of William Hardesty's testimony that relates to the first years of the married lives of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks—To that part which thus far historians have refused to consider as though it were unworthy of any place in the annals of Lincoln history.

William Hardesty said that after the wedding and infare at the Berry house, Thomas Lincoln and his bride went to live in a little one-room cabin on the plantation of Richard Berry, Jr. This statement is confirmed by a statement handed down in the Litsey family to the effect that a member of that clan, after the cessation of festivities at the Berry house, saw Thomas and Nancy walking across the field to the little cabin that stood on Richard Berry, Jr's., place, "Where, it was understood, they were to begin housekeeping."

#### R. M. Thompson's Testimony

The late R. M. Thompson, descendant from Sarah Mitchell Thompson and thereby a blood-relative of Nancy Hanks, always insisted that Thomas and Nancy Lincoln commenced housekeeping in the Beech Fork neighborhood and that their son, Abraham, was born there.

As to the character of R. M. Thompson, no word of commendation here seems necessary. He was a highly respected citizen of Washington County, and at one time was Postmaster in Springfield. His testimony concerning President Lincoln's parentage and place of birth, founded upon information handed down in his family from Nancy's dearest friend, Sarah Mitchell Thompson, coincides with the statements made by William Hardesty, the late Judge Berry Litsey, and others.

#### Two Men Who Knew

Two men perhaps, more than all others, were in possession of sufficient data with which to prove that Thomas Lincoln and his wife, Nancy, spent the first years of their married lives in the Beech Fork neighborhood and that there President Lincoln was born. They were the late Hon. R. J. Browne, and the late Hon. John W. Lewis.

R. J. Browne was for many years a prominent member of the Washington County Bar. During the last years of his life he lived in Louisville and there he died. His law office in Springfield appears to have served as headquarters for the collecting and preserving of Lincoln data, amply sufficient to conclusively prove that President Lincoln was born in Washington County.

#### Judge Mayes' Story

The Hon. T. Scott Mayes, Judge of the Washington Circuit Court, was for many years intimately associated with Mr. Browne, and particularly during the last years of that gentleman's life. Judge Mayes tells a story, that, so far as I know, has never gotten into print, the substance of which is as follows:

"During the time that R. J. Browne was a resident of Louisville, the editors of Collier's Weekly conceived the idea of marking the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln. A representative of the magazine came to Kentucky to gather data. The rival claims of Washington and Larue Counties were investigated and weighed and the evidence at that time appeared to be in favor of Washington County.

"The Collier's representative interviewed, among others, Mr. R. J. Browne, and seemed much impressed after examining that gentleman's collection of Lincoln data. He sought permission to use the material and asked Mr. Browne to give him a signed statement. Browne consented to prepare the statement and supply copies of all his records.

"For some reason, best known to Mr. Browne himself, but presumably because he was then in his declining years and in a poor state of health, he delayed the matter. Collier's agent made no less than a dozen trips to Mr. Browne's home in an effort to get the data and statement but was always put off until a later date. Finally, the agent stopped coming and in a short while Collier's Weekly launched a drive to establish the memorial in Larue County.

"Speaking from my personal knowledge of the facts I can say that I am thoroughly convinced that if Mr. Browne had supplied the data and signed the statement which was found among his papers after his death in 1891, Washington County would have gotten the Lincoln Memorial.

"After the death of Mr. Browne and when the movement was launched to establish the memorial in Larue County, I told the late John W. Lewis about the data Mr. Browne had gathered and the statement he had prepared and left unsigned. Mr. Lewis asked me to go to Louisville and get the papers. I took the train to Louisville on the day following my conversation with

Mr. Lewis and arriving there I went to the Trust Company that had acted as agent for the executor of Mr. Browne's estate. When we settled the estate there were a great number of papers, the Lincoln data and statements among them. These were carted to the Trust Company vaults. Arriving at the Company's headquarters I inquired for the papers and was told that everything had been burned.

"I was told that at the time the Larue County Memorial was dedicated one of the owners of Collier's was present and that he stated that "While we are not certain that the exact site of the birthplace has been ascertained, the shrine had to be located somewhere and this place seems as good as any."

#### Activities of John W. Lewis

The late Hon. John W. Lewis, another prominent member of the Washington County Bar and the first Republican Congressman from the Fourth Congressional District of Kentucky, was perhaps, next to Mr. Browne, the best-informed person on Lincoln history in Washington County. I have lately received a very interesting letter from Dr. John M. Spaulding, of Los Angeles, Calif., in which the following statement appears:

"Many times have I heard the late John W. Lewis, Attorney, remark, 'If the citizens of Washington County would support me in a trip to Washington City, I could secure the Lincoln Memorial for the Portown District.' He often said he had sufficient information to satisfy the authorities in Washington. You may obtain the information from some of the local attorneys, who bought Mr. Lewis' library and the proof of his statements may be found among his private library collections."

From various other persons who knew Mr. Lewis I have secured state-

ments that corroborate the above statement of Dr. Spaulding. All seem thoroughly satisfied that John W. Lewis "had the facts" and that he could have convinced the authorities in Washington. A woeful lack of interest on the part of the citizens of Washington County kept Mr. Lewis and a few other willing souls from entering and aggressively prosecuting Washington County's claim for the Lincoln Memorial that finally went to Larue County, because "the Memorial had to be established somewhere."

#### Nancy Loathe to Leave

William Hardesty always maintained that Nancy Hanks Lincoln was loathe to leave the neighborhood in which she had spent practically all of her life up to the time of her marriage and that she, with the aid of some of her Berry kin, persuaded Thomas Lincoln to commence housekeeping in the little cabin on Richard Berry's land. As his trade of carpenter and cabinet-maker caused him to be about to a considerable extent, for good carpenters were in demand at that time, Thomas Lincoln decided to abandon the idea he had originally entertained of taking his bride to Elizabethtown and settled her, instead, in the little Beech Fork cabin.



The William Hardesty narration of where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy really went after their marriage at Francis Berry's house seems worthy of careful consideration when it is known that he (Hardesty) always claimed that on numerous occasions he was engaged by Thomas to stay with Nancy while he was away from home plying his trade and earning a living for himself and family.

#### Old Lincoln Powder Horn

As proof of his employment by Thomas Lincoln, Hardesty exhibited an old powder horn and said that it had been given to him by Thomas on one such occasion. This old powder horn, Hardesty said Thomas Lincoln told him, was the one used by his (Lincoln's) father, and was taken from about his neck after he had been killed by an Indian near his home on Lincoln's Run.

The old powder horn had on it the name "A. Lincoln" and the Masonic square and compass. William Hardesty gave the horn to Mr. Browne and Browne gave it to the old Louisville Polytechnic Library and Museum.

Some Lincoln biographers have expressed the opinion that the powder horn never passed beyond the imaginary stage. Because of the fact that several of the articles, including the old horn, disappeared at the time the Polytechnic collection was distributed among several other museums, and to this day have never been found, concrete proof of the existence of the horn is lacking.

#### Saw The Powder Horn

Some weeks ago, while visiting in the museum of the Louisville Public Library, I had the good fortune to meet an old gentleman who informed me that he had served as an attendant and assistant caretaker at the now defunct Louisville Polytechnic Museum. I told him that I was interested in locating an old powder horn that had belonged to President Lincoln's grandfather, and that I understood that it had been placed in the Polytechnic collection by Mr. R. J. Browne.

The old gentleman's face lighted up. "If the Polytechnic were still in existence I could take you to the very case where that powder horn was hung. I remember it well. It was in the same case with a horn that had belonged to Daniel Boone. The Boone horn was much larger than the Lincoln horn. I do not recall the markings on the Lincoln horn but I remember that it had a wooden peg in one end. What happened to the horn I do not know though I surmise that, like a lot of other relics, it was loaned to someone for exhibition purposes and never returned."

While my search for the Lincoln powder horn has not as yet resulted in the finding of that valuable old relic, I am confident, after my late confab with the old gentleman in the Louisville museum, that William Har-

desty had the horn and that he gave it to Mr. Browne who in turn gave it to the Louisville Polytechnic Museum. It now becomes a matter of accepting or rejecting Hardesty's story as to how the horn came into his hands.

#### How Hardesty Got The Horn

Thomas Lincoln, according to William Hardesty's testimony, got the powder horn as a part of his share of his father's estate. Hardesty got it from Thomas Lincoln as pay for staying with Nancy and the children at the little cabin near the Beech Fork. This brings us to the consideration of the time when the horn passed from Thomas Lincoln to William Hardesty.

William Hardesty said that it was in the late Fall of 1809, when the now immortal Abe was a baby, that Thomas Lincoln determined to remove his family to Hardin County, and that he purposed to go there and build a cabin in which to house his family before removing them from the Beech Fork neighborhood. He engaged young Hardesty, then eleven years old, to stay with his family during the nights until he should return and take them to their new home. Hardesty said that he faithfully performed the duties incumbent upon him and that during the time of his employment he often held the infant Abraham in his arms. When Thomas Lincoln returned from Hardin County Hardesty was paid for his services and the powder horn was included in the payment.

#### Mixed His Abrahams?

Dr. Louis A. Warren, in his "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood," thinks Hardesty "mixed his Abrahams." The Abraham Lincoln that William Hardesty knew, according to Dr. Warren's version, was probably the eldest son of Mordecai Lincoln and a cousin of the President.

But such a conclusion appears ridiculous when it is recalled that Mordecai's son, Abraham, was born about the same time that William Hardesty came into this world. Hardesty evidently knew Abraham, son of Mordecai, and he had probably been in his company on numerous occasions. The two lads would have been playmates and neither could have been the nurse of the other, at least not to any great advantage. In all probability Hardesty's connection with the household of Mordecai Lincoln was quite limited. Mordecai's home was some distance from the Hardesty home while the cabin in which the parents of the President are said to have lived was only a short way from the Hardesty domicile. I certainly do not believe that William Hardesty would have confused, either unintentionally or otherwise, the two Abrahams, and I think Dr. Warren's supposition of little value.

#### An Old Slave's Testimony

Some months ago I talked with an old colored minister who had lived in the vicinity of Beechland for a number of years. From him I received the following statement:

"Many years ago when I went to Beechland to serve the church there I heard people talk about President Lincoln being born there. I remember one day when I was called to the home of a very old colored lady who lived near Simpsonville to pray for her when she was sick. She was near 100 years old. She told me many things about the early days. I dis-

tinctly remember her saying with considerable feeling that when President Lincoln was born in a cabin near the Beech Fork she was sent by her mistress to nurse him. 'Little did I think,' she said, 'as I held that scrawny little babe in my arms, that one day he would set me free!'"

#### John Haydon's Deposition

On the 2nd day of February, 1925, before Anna Mae Duncan, a Notary Public, John Thomas Haydon, describing himself as of Ralls County, Missouri, made a deposition in which he affirmed the following alleged facts:

Affiant's father's name was John Thomas Haydon and his mother's maiden name was Rebecca McAlister. Mother was a daughter of Daniel McAlister and Kitty Moody. Kitty Moody was a daughter of Thomas Moody and a cousin of Richard, Francis and Edward Berry, sons of Richard Berry, Sr., and cousins of Nancy Hanks.

In 1865, when President Lincoln was assassinated in Washington, Kitty Moody McAlister was visiting in the home of her daughter and son-in-law in Marion County. When word reached the Haydon home that the President had been shot, grandmother McAlister remarked that she had had the pleasure of nursing one President and that was Abraham Lincoln. Affiant clearly remembered the occasion and states that his grandmother then related in detail how she attended the Lincoln-Hanks wedding and danced at the infare following. She said that some years later, when she was visiting in one of the Berry homes, Thomas and Nancy were then living in a cabin on the Berry land and that when word came to the Berry house that there was a new baby in the Lincoln cabin, she went across the field to see the new arrival and was told that the proud parents had called the child "Abraham." She then spoke with pride of how she had held the little fellow in her arms.

The deposition of John Thomas Haydon is a valuable document not alone because of the statement it contains with reference to the birth of Abraham Lincoln, but also because it adds another name to the all-too-brief list of persons who are definitely known to have attended the Lincoln-Hanks wedding in 1806.

#### Who Were The Moodys?

The Moodys were large landowners in the vicinity of Walton's Lick. That section of Washington County is just across the Little Beech Fork from the Beechland neighborhood. Their holdings exceeded 5,000 acres. There are numerous records in the Clerk's Office in Springfield relating to the Moodys and their business dealings with the Berrys. Just how Kitty Moody McAlister was related to the Berry brothers I have not been able to determine. It is said that one of her sons, Thomas McAlister, who died of cholera in Washington County during the epidemic of 1854, married a Berry. There was probably some other connection previous to that which caused Kitty Moody to speak of the Berry brothers as her cousins.

Some years ago a considerable stir



was created in the Walton's Lick neighborhood when a sum of money was found in the old chimney of the house in which the Moodys had lived. There was a story that went the rounds of how during the War Between the States, when that section of the county was infested with guerrillas, the Moodys had caused some of their slaves to hide a considerable sum of money and then the slaves had been put to death so they could not tell where the money had been secreted.

### The Lincolns' First Child

One well-known citizen of Springfield had told me that when he was a boy, living in the vicinity of Walton's Lick, which place is not far from the Lincoln and Berry neighborhood, he would often accompany his father on horseback from their home to the mill at Beechland.

"Very often," this informant said, "as we passed by the little cabin in which folks said President Lincoln was born, my father would tell me how he had heard his father say that there Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks commenced housekeeping, and there three of their children were born, the last of the trio being the President.

"Father used to say that Thomas and Nancy's first child was a girl and that they named her Nancy, after her mother. This child died shortly after birth and Thomas Lincoln dug a little grave and made a little coffin and the little mite of humanity was buried only a short way from the cabin. I remember seeing the grave and a small stone on which were cut the two letters 'N. L.' Folks used to say that Thomas Lincoln cut the stone and carved the letters."

### Old Lincoln Spring

It is quite significant that the spring near the roadside, and only a few rods south from the spot where the little Berry cabin stood, has, since the earliest recollection of the older citizens of the neighborhood, been called "The Lincoln Spring." Since no other member of the Lincoln family, save Thomas Lincoln, has ever been associated with that particular site, it seems highly probable that the spring was so-called because it was at one time the source of water supply for the inmates of the little cabin, who were probably Thomas Lincoln and his family.

### Eleanor Litsey's Story

There is a lady, now living at Beechland, who says that she was well acquainted with Eleanor Lewis Litsey, wife of Uriah Litsey and mother of the late Judge Berry Litsey. This lady says that many times she listened to Eleanor Lewis Litsey tell of the Lincoln-Hanks wedding and other things associated therewith.

Eleanor Litsey said that she had often heard her husband's mother, Mary Gregory Litsey, tell of the wedding, etc. My readers are already acquainted with Mary Gregory Litsey, as I have previously written about her. She was Richard Gregory's daughter and the wife of Randal Litsey.

Mary Litsey, according to her daughter-in-law's testimony, was intimate with Nancy Hanks both before and after Nancy's wedding in 1806. She not only declared that she had attended the wedding and infare in 1806 but also said that she had helped make Nancy's wedding clothes. Mary Gregory Litsey was some years older than Nancy Hanks and she and Randal Litsey were married previous to the

After the infare at the Berry home, Mary Litsey told her daughter-in-law, Thomas and Nancy went to live in the little cabin on Richard Berry's farm. They continued to live there until after their third child, a boy, whom they named Abraham, was born in 1809.

Eleanor Lewis Litsey told my lady informant at Beechland that her husband, Uriah Litsey, always said that the little cabin that stood on the land that he had purchased from Maj. Edward Berry, youngest son of Richard Berry, Sr., was the birthplace of President Lincoln.

### Lincoln's Carpenter Shop

A considerable number of Lincoln biographers have Thomas and Nancy Lincoln on their way to Elizabethtown "where Thomas Lincoln had his carpenter shop," very soon after the wedding and infare in Washington County. One writer has them leaving the dance floor to set off for their new home.

On what grounds it is presumed that Thomas Lincoln had a carpenter shop in Elizabethtown, I do not know. Perhaps someone reasoned that "every carpenter must have a shop, and Thomas Lincoln was a carpenter, therefore, Thomas had a shop." Or, maybe, the same fellow who imagined and wrote that "Thomas Lincoln left Elizabethtown on the 12th to be married in Washington County," when it is known that Lincoln was in Springfield at least two days previous to the 12th, may have also imagined that Thomas had a carpenter shop.

Every bit of documentary and presumptive evidence available has been siezed upon to bolster the claim that Thomas Lincoln and his bride commenced housekeeping in Elizabethtown. The fact that Thomas owned property there and that he made a few purchases there shortly after his marriage has been made the chief cornerstone for the Hardin County claim.

### Lincoln's Property

Thomas Lincoln owned property in Hardin County as early as 1803, and in Cumberland County two years previous to that. The Cumberland County land was entered in May, 1801, and in November he paid a fee of \$4.40 on the land. But, while he was acquiring land in Cumberland County in 1801, Thomas was still considered to be a resident of Washington County and his name appears on the tax list for that year. In 1802 he gave bond as a constable in Cumberland County and yet remained on the tax list in Washington County.

The chief reason for Thomas Lincoln being in and about Hardin County to a considerable extent from 1802 to 1806 may be said to be because his two sisters, Mary and Ann, had married and settled in Hardin, and his mother had removed there too. For what reason, I know not, but nevertheless it is quite apparent that there never was a very close association between Thomas Lincoln and his brother, Mordecai, or even his other brother, Josiah. Some historians have tried to place the blame on Thomas and make it appear that it was because of his shiftless, lazy, "no-account" ways that his brother, Mordecai, gave him "the cold shoulder." But, methinks, it was Thomas who preferred to stay away from Mordecai, ever remembering that Mordecai had paid scant attention to him and the other members of the family when the estate of the pioneer Abraham was settled in 1789.

With his mother and two sisters, it was different. Thomas had built his mother a home in Hardin County, and

he seems to have been often visited in the homes of his two sisters.

I can readily imagine that Thomas Lincoln purposed to settle in Elizabethtown, after he had married Nancy Hanks, for he would naturally, attached to his mother and sisters as he most certainly was, want to be near them. But marriage often changes the picture and pre-marriage purposes often fall by the wayside. Whatever plans Thomas Lincoln may have had with reference to where their home should be, Nancy had her plans, too, and—there is more than a bare possibility that Nancy "had her way" then, if never after during the period of their married lives.

Thomas Lincoln was no settled farmer or cabinet maker at the time he married Nancy Hanks. He owned land, it is true, but there is no record to show that he cultivated that land after the fashion of an established farmer. It is no reflection upon him to cite this fact nor can it be justly assumed therefrom that he was shiftless, lazy, and "no-account," because he did not confine himself to the limits of his land and earn his bread therefrom.

No, the father of President Lincoln was not a farmer. He was by trade a carpenter and cabinet maker. There is no evidence, however, that he was what might be termed "a settled carpenter." Instead of confining himself to a carpenter shop in one community, he went wherever opportunity for work and a chance to earn a living beckoned. He was above the average at his trade and he experienced little, if any, difficulty in finding work and in getting good wages for his labors. We may expect to find him busily plying his trade in Washington County and then a short while later hard at work building a dam, a house, or something else that carpenters of his time were wont to

build, in Hardin, or Cumberland, or some other county.

Nancy Hanks certainly must have taken all of these things into consideration. She would know that Thomas would be very much about, especially if he continued plying his trade as a carpenter, and there was every reason to believe that he would—that he would not tabandon carpentering and a good living, for farming and a meager existence. This would mean, insofar as Nancy was concerned, that she would often be left alone and if their home was anywhere else save in the Beech Fork neighborhood, she would practically be among strangers. And, Nancy hadn't been among strangers since she was eleven years old.

Then, too, I think Nancy thought of the time when she must endure the pangs and face the dangers of childbirth. What woman is there, who does not desire the presence of some of her female kin at such a time? Nancy's kinfolk, at least those with whom she had been intimately associated during the greater part of her life previous to her marriage, were living in Washington County.

Taking everything into consideration, it does not seem unreasonable to presume that Nancy opposed immediate departure from the old neighborhood and that Thomas Lincoln, let her have her way, abandoned his plan to settle in Elizabethtown, and saw her housed in the little cabin on Richard Berry's farm before he set out for other parts to ply his trade.

At some future time I shall consider the Hardin and Larue records that have been brought forward in the effort to prove that the Lincolns left

Washington County immediately after their marriage and that they settled in Elizabethtown and later on the farm where it is alleged the President was born.



# DEBATE FEATURE ON PROGRAM FOR HISTORICAL MEET

Members of Society Will Serve As  
Judges; Report of Progress On  
Lincoln Homestead Park  
Will Be Made.

## PILGRIMAGE IS PLANNED

*Springfield Sun 3-1-34*

The March meeting of the Washington County Historical Society will be held in the Court House on next Tuesday evening, it was announced today. The meeting will begin at 7:30 o'clock. After the business session a debate, Resolved: "That the War for American Independence was of more importance than the War Between the States," will enliven the proceedings. The Rev. Dewey Kimbel and Marshall Duncan will be the speakers for the affirmative and Joseph Polin and "Pat" Grigsby will speak for the negative. Each speaker will be allotted five minutes. A jury of 12 members of the society will be selected to decide the question.

The Rev. Orval Baylor, president of the society will present a detailed report of the progress of the work at Lincoln Homestead Park. Work at the park that has been underway since November of last year, has been slowed down due to the lay-off of men by the C.W.A. but it is hoped that the project may continue until it has reached a point where it can be dedicated and formally opened. Mr. Baylor on Tuesday directed an appeal to Thornton Wilcox, administrator of C.W.A. in Kentucky, to that end. Recently an application for additional material to cost approximately \$600, was approved by Mr. Wilcox. Mr. Baylor's appeal on Tuesday was that the present crew of workmen be permitted to continue until the park is ready for dedication about the first of May. Mr. Wilcox has taken the appeal under advisement and it is expected that an answer will be forthcoming soon.

Highly elated over the success of the Lincoln Birthday Dinner on February 12th, officials of the society are planning for a number of similar celebrations during the coming spring and summer. At the April meeting of the society, which will probably be held in the auditorium of the high school, a playlet, "Lincoln in the White House," will feature the program. On June 12th, at the Francis Berry house near Beechland, a pageant depicting the wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks will be an-

other feature of this year's activities.

Word has just reached the officials of the society that plans are now underway to inaugurate, during the year of the 125th anniversary of President Lincoln's birth, an annual pilgrimage to Lincoln shrines, the first one to be conducted this year starting from Lexington, home of Mary Todd. The announcement said that the tour would begin at Lexington on June 12, the day on which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married. In view of the fact that the local historical society plans to hold a celebration on that day, the Lincoln National Life Foundation, sponsors for the tour, will be asked to make the start at Lexington one or two days earlier in order that the visitors may reach Washington County in time to participate in the celebration here. Several hundred persons are expected to join in the tour, which will be under the personal direction of Dr. Louis A. Warren, Lincoln historian and lecturer.

While no plans for the dedication of the park can as yet be given, it is probable that Senator Alben W. Barkley, Senator M. M. Logan and Senator F. Ryan Duffy will be asked to attend and deliver the principle addresses.

# COMPLETION OF LINCOLN PARK SEEMS ASSURED

Dedicatory Service Is Planned For  
Decoration Day, May 30th, With  
Senator Alben Barkley As  
The Main Speaker.

## ADDITIONAL FUND ASKED

*Apr. 5, 1934*  
Lincoln Homestead Park, Washington County's memorial to Abraham Lincoln and his pioneer forebears, will be dedicated on Decoration Day, May 30, and Senator Alben W. Barkley will deliver the chief address, according to an announcement made at the regular meeting of the Washington County Historical Society Tuesday night. Work at the park will be resumed within a short time and everything will be in readiness for the opening ceremonies.

The historical society, which has been sponsoring the park project, adopted a resolution at the meeting on Tuesday night authorizing the executive committee to launch a two-week's park completion drive to secure funds that will be needed for the purchase of materials. It is understood that the Kentucky Emergency Relief Commission will furnish the necessary labor. The commission will not furnish any money for materials, supplies or transportation.

The park completion campaign will open Monday, April 9, and continue until the 23rd. The amount to be raised has been set at \$500. Six teams of solicitors will conduct the campaign and each team is asked to secure at least \$100. A large bulletin board, located on the public square, will keep the public informed as to the progress of the campaign.

The executive committee plans to issue an attractive certificate bearing a picture of the memorial cabin and an appropriate inscription to be given to all persons contributing \$5 or more. It is believed that there will be a hearty response on the part of the people of the county and that the goal will be exceeded.

The names of the solicitors have been announced as follows:

Division 1—John Smothers, captain; Theo Campbell, John Polin, Mrs. Chas. Litsey and Mrs. Frances Sholtz.

Division 2—Mrs. T. Scott Mayes, captain; Gladys Tucker, Will Waters, Troll Young and Mitchell Walker.

Division 3—Mrs. R. E. Foster, captain; J. A. Boulware, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Raymond Thompson and Mrs. W. C. McChord.

Division 4—Miss Naomi Rodgers, captain; Mrs. T. J. Settle, Mrs. J. H. Barnes, Mrs. J. L. Moran and J. F. Bishop.

Division 5—Mrs. W. H. McCawley, captain; Emma Noonan, Mary Walker, Mrs. Evan Hagan and Jennie Cokendolpher.

Division 6—Gabe Wharton, captain; J. F. Pettus, Lloyd Haydon, W. D. McElroy and Robert Noe.

Inspirational addresses were delivered at the meeting Tuesday night by Joseph Polin and the Rev. Orval Baylor. Mr. Polin gave an account of the recent conferences which he and Mr. Baylor had with officials in Washington, D. C., respecting the future of the park. He stated that assurance was given that if the citizens of Washington County shall lend their aid in a convincing way in establishing the park, government recognition will follow.

Rev. Baylor read a paper on "Washington County's 14 Points," in which he set forth the county's claims for recognition as being "The Original Lincoln Country in Kentucky." The first part of this paper appears elsewhere in this issue of The Sun and the concluding part will follow next week.



## WILL DEDICATE MEMORIAL PARK ON JUNE TWELFTH

Pavilion New Being Completed And  
Flowers And Shrubs Planted; The  
Cabin Is To Be Furnished  
In Lincoln Style.

### MANY VISITORS COMING

Detailed announcement of plans for the dedication of Lincoln Homestead Park will be made soon, the Executive Committee of the Washington County Historical Society announced today. Washington County's memorial to Lincoln and the Lincolns will be dedicated on June 12th.

Work at the park site goes on with workmen supplied by the Washington County Relief Committee. The pavilion is being completed, flowers and shrubbery planted and other improvements are noted. The cabin is to be furnished soon, as near like the Lincolns kept theirs as is possible.

Interest in the park is wide-spread and a number of nationally known nurseries have donated flowers, shrubs, etc., to help beautify the park. A large shipment of peonies from the Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minn., arrived this week. A letter and catalog from the Hoosier Aquatic Gardens, Martinsville, Ind., made known that firm's desire to contribute something to help beautify the grounds. A prize-winning rose, the New Dawn, arrived from Brunswick, New Jersey. The rose was donated by the Somerset Rose Nursery. It is the first plant to have the honor of being granted a U. S. patent.

Now that summer weather is here there is a decided increase in the number of visitors. On last Friday a delegation of about 75 school children from Harrodsburg visited the park and listened to a talk on Lincoln Lore by the Rev. Orval Baylor. Several of the classes of the local schools visited the park on Wednesday of this week. On Sundays, during the afternoons, there is a steady going and coming of visitors when the park is open for inspection from two to four o'clock.

This week, in connection with the Curtis Publishing Company, publishers of The Saturday Evening Post, and The Country Gentleman, the historical society is putting on a subscription campaign. A substantial percent of the subscription money goes to the park fund. The Curtis Company has a representative here in charge of the campaign. He is being assisted by a representative of the local society.

A number of nationally-known persons are expected to attend the dedicatory exercises on June 12th and take part on the program. Among others invited to participate are the Hon. Edwin P. Morrow, of Somerset, and ex-Senator W. O. Stanley, of Washington.

# SPEAKERS LAUD LINCOLN PARK PROJECT HERE

Declare Washington County Has The  
Greatest Chance In The World to  
Become A Chief Center of  
Historic Interest.

## FAMOUS VISITORS COMING

May 10 1914

Another interesting meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was held at the Court House Tuesday night. A fair-sized crowd is reported. Two speakers, James Isenberg, prominent merchant of Harrodsburg, and D. M. Hutton, editor of The Harrodsburg Herald, gave interesting accounts of the trials and struggles incident to the establishment of Harrodsburg's Pioneer Memorial Park and urged the members of the local society to push to completion, on a big scale, the proposed Lincoln Homestead Park.

"Washington County has the greatest chance in the world to become one of the chief centers of historic interest," Mr. Isenberg told his hearers. "You have a historic background here that should be worth thousands of dollars to your community. If the citizens of Springfield and Washington County do not support the Lincoln Park project and carry it through on a big scale, they certainly are not only lacking in historic interest but they are passing up a chance to add a considerable revenue as well."

Mr. Isenberg cited statistics to show that the tourist business is the biggest business in the country. One thousand dollars left in Springfield in one year by tourists will mean a turn-over in business of every nature equal to five thousand dollars. Lincoln Homestead Park will draw thousands of visitors every year, the speaker predicted, and those visitors will leave money behind them. "The grocer, the clothing merchant, the druggist, will all get a part of the dollar that is left with the gas and oil man, the hotel man, the restaurant, and the tourist home," he said.

Mr. Hutton pledged the support of Harrodsburg, the mecca of thousands of tourists yearly. The whole world is interested in Lincoln, he said, and every visitor at Harrodsburg or at "Old Kentucky Home" will want to visit the Lincoln Country of Washington County.

Both speakers predicted that if a suitable temple in which to house and display the Lincoln Marriage Certificate could be erected in Springfield and a fee charged to view same, the proceeds would be ample with which to maintain the Lincoln Homestead Park. "The people of Washington County should take the Marriage Certificate out of 'cold storage,' and put it in an appropriate shrine right here in Springfield," Mr. Hutton said.

It was announced at the meeting that every effort will be made to have the park ready for dedication on June 12th, the anniversary of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks. Word has been received here that a party of Lincoln lovers under the direction of Dr. Louis A. Warren, Lincoln historian, will visit the park that day. It is expected that this party will be composed of many people from all parts of the country. The pilgrimage will start at Lexington on the morning of June 12 and terminate at Peoria, Ill., Friday evening, June 15th.

The tentative itinerary for the first day, planned by the Lincoln National Life Foundation, follows:

Leave homes of Mary Todd and Henry Clay, Lexington, at 8:00 A. M., visit Lincoln shrine, grave of Jesse Head at Harrodsburg. Leave Harrodsburg 10:00 A. M., for visit to the Lincoln Homestead Park on Lincoln Run, the home sites of Widow Lincoln and Richard Berry. Leave Lincoln Park at 11:30 A. M. for Bardstown, where lunch will be had at My Old Kentucky Home State Park. The party will then visit the Knob Creek section, the Lincoln Shrine at Hodgenville, and other points of interest having connection with the life of Lincoln.

# BAYLOR RETAINS LEADERSHIP OF HISTORICAL BODY

Was Re-Elected President of County  
Society at Annual Election Held  
Tuesday Night; Will Supervise  
Lincoln Park Work.

## PLAN HALLOWE'EN PARTY

Sept 13. + 93 ✓  
Recommendations of the nominating committee, that all of the retiring officers, with the exception of the librarian and sergeant at arms, be re-elected for another year, were unanimously adopted by the members of the Washington County Historical Society on last Tuesday night. The report of the committee was submitted by Judge H. E. Case.

Two of the retiring officers having removed from the county, the society chose Mrs. C. F. Bosley to serve as librarian, and Lester Hanby as sergeant at arms. The other officers re-elected were Orval W. Baylor, president; Joseph Polin and Mrs. H. B. Gregory, vice presidents; Raymond Thompson, secretary; W. D. McElroy, treasurer; Dewey Kimbel, chaplain; Miss Emma Noonan, historian.

The Rev. Mr. Baylor suggested that he be not renominated, but the committee recommended that in as much as he expects to continue a resident of the county during the ensuing year, Mr. Baylor be re-elected and prevailed upon to continue as leader of the society. In conjunction with his duties as president, Mr. Baylor will have personal supervision of the work at Lincoln Homestead Park, where extensive work is to be carried on during the fall and winter months.

The Rev. Dewey Kimbel, and Joseph Polin, in very interesting talks, reviewed the work of the society during the past twelve months. It was stated that there is, perhaps, no county historical society in Kentucky with a larger active membership than that of Washington County. "Certainly no society has done more historical work and none has attracted more widespread attention than our society," the Rev. Mr. Kimbel said. "Lincoln Homestead Park, created and developed beyond our greatest hopes of twelve months ago, stands as a shining example of the able and devoted leadership of our president and the interest and cooperation of the great majority of the society's membership," said Mr. Polin.

The society voted to make the October meeting one of public interest with a speaker of note, and a committee was named to secure the speaker and arrange the program. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday night, October 2nd.

A Halloween celebration will be the society's next gala event at Lincoln Homestead Park. There will be numerous entertaining features. Prizes will be offered for the most attractively costumed lady, man and child, and for the best costumed couple. Prizes for the lady and gentleman in best pioneer costume will also be offered. A committee composed of Mrs. Ruel Foster, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Mrs. Frances Shultz, Mrs. T. Scott Mayes, Theo Campbell, John Polin and Joe Bishop, was named to supervise the celebration.

The concluding feature of the evening's program was a paper, "Abe Lincoln's Mother," read by Mr. Baylor.

Announcement to the effect Rev. Baylor is to retain leadership in the Historical Society, and is to maintain his residence here, came as a most pleasant surprise to his friends, and they are legion, many of whom feared he would give up the splendid work he had undertaken, in which his efforts were rewarded with success beyond the fondest dream of many who assisted him, and that the county would lose a historian and genealogist than whom none are more prominent at the present time.



# HISTORIC SPOTS WILL BE MARKED

Research Committee Will Be Named  
To Locate Points of Interest  
In The County And Prepare

*Springfield State* Necessary Data. 7-2-34

A resolution to locate and mark every historic spot in Washington County was adopted at a meeting of the members of the Washington County Historical Society on Tuesday night. The meeting was held at Lincoln Homestead Park. The president of the society was authorized to name a committee of five members to be known as the Historical Research Committee. This committee will locate historic spots in the county, paying particular attention to old burying-grounds, and prepare historic data pertaining to each site located. When this has been done the society plans to commence the erection of suitable markers, carrying on the work until every spot of historic interest in the county has been brought to public attention.

The meeting of the society on Tuesday night was the first since the dedication of Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12. A considerable number of members and friends attended.

Arrangements have been made with Mrs. Sally Moran to serve as hostess at the Lincoln Homestead. The house will be open on Sunday afternoons and at other times by appointment. It is planned to have the house open to visitors during Fair week. The Visitors Register at the park reveals that a considerable number have visited the site since dedication day. Reg-

(Continued From Page 1)

istrations from the various States as well as from Kentucky points are noted.

A committee composed of Gabe Wharton, Joe Pettus and H. B. Gregory was named to supervise the preparation and erection of road signs to bring the attention of the public to the park. Large signs are to be erected on all the main highways in the vicinity of Springfield and in the park area.

Erection of a monument to the memory of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of the President, is planned for the near future. The monument will be placed on the roadside near the site of the Richard Berry, Sr., home where Lincoln's mother was raised. Funds raised by the school children of Washington County will be used to finance this project.

# OUTING PLANNED AT LINCOLN PARK

Governor Laffoon Will Speak During  
Afternoon; Public Is Invited To  
Join Picnic Crowd Sunday For  
Homecoming Event.

The last chance for an outing, with picnic lunch, as the summer fades and autumn comes, is afforded the folk of Washington County by the invitation of the management of Lincoln Homestead Park to use the park grounds for homecomings and picnics next Sunday, October 7. It will be Governor's Day, in honor of Governor Ruby Laffoon who will visit the homestead and deliver an address during the afternoon. The hour of the address is not known as it is not known just when the Governor will arrive. Those who bring their picnic lunch to the park will be there in plenty of time for the address. Others should plan to go to the park as soon after noon as possible. A capacity crowd is expected for the event as a number of delegations from surrounding counties are expected to attend.

The cabin and club house will be open all day. The grounds are now in fine condition and there will be plenty of room for the attending folk to spread their lunches.

A program of extensive improvements at Lincoln Homestead is being planned for this fall and winter. The services of an expert engineer and landscape artist will be secured and definite plans will be mapped out before work starts. It is expected that the planning will be done by November 1st and the work will get under way then. The club house is to be finished and furnished. A water system will be installed. A caretaker's cottage of three or four rooms is contemplated, and numerous other features are yet to be worked out. By the season of 1935 Lincoln Homestead Park will be one of the showplaces of Kentucky.

A memorial to Nancy Hanks, mother of Abraham Lincoln, is to be included in the program for this fall and winter. This memorial will be erected with money raised by the school children of Washington County. A number of the schools of the county have subscribed 100%. Publication of the names of the children will begin next week. If your school has not reported please get the report to Mr. Baylor at once. Springfield High and Grade Schools have responded generously. The report of these schools was turned in Wednesday by Prof. J. H. Barnes.

The biggest thing in frolics, that's the way the booster committee of the Washington County Historical Society feels about its announced Hallowe'en Frolic to be staged at Bishop's Warehouse. It will be a regular carnival affair, according to an announcement made by the chairman of the committee, Mrs. Ruel Foster, at the regular monthly meeting of the society on Tuesday night. It is expected that the warehouse will be crowded and it is hoped that the people of the community will join wholeheartedly in the affair and thus assure a good sum of money for contemplated improvements at Lincoln Homestead.

There will be plenty of good things to eat and drink. Confetti will fly in profusion and fortunes will be told. Dancing and roller skating for those who enjoy such. Witches, Cauldron, Bingo, a Plantation Show, and many other features will add to the attractiveness of the frolic.

The following committees have been named by the chairman and it is hoped those whose names appear in the list will accept their assignments and begin work without delay. Should any person be unable to serve the chairman should be notified immediately. The committees follow:

Food—Mrs. Charlie Litsey, Mrs. Frank Simms, Mrs. Decatur Dragoo, Mrs. Chris Hertlein, Mrs. Sally Moran and Mrs. Jeff Settle.

Bingo—Joe Polin, John Polin, J. W. Janes, Leroy Bishop, Hugh Smith and Grundy Mayes.

Dance and Music—Joe Bishop, Frances Shultz and Theo Campbell.

Roller Skating—J. Paul Bishop, J. W. Bravard.

Plantation Show—Mary Walker, Gladys Tucker.

Witches Cauldron—Emma Noonan, Dolly Bateman.

Fortunes—Thelma McIntyre.

Law and Order—Herman Bishop, Edward Goatley, Herman Smith.

Confetti Booth—Mrs. J. H. Barnes and Miss Sarah Knott Janes.

Floor and Decorations—H. B. Gregory, J. F. Pettus, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Mrs. T. Scott Mayes.

Prizes and Judges—O. W. Baylor, Mrs. W. D. McElroy, Mrs. C. F. Bosley.

Cold Drinks—Theo Campbell, Bert Thompson, John I. Pettus.

The meeting of the Washington County Historical Society on last Tuesday night was devoted to discussion of plans for the Hallowe'en Frolic. Joseph Polin, first vice president, presided in the absence of the president, the Rev. Orval Baylor.



# ARRIVAL OF PIONEERS IS FITTINGLY OBSERVED

## GOVERNOR MET BY HUGE CROWD AT PARK SUNDAY

Chief Executive Declared Site One of  
Kentucky's Beauty Spots, Which  
Will Eventually Become A  
National Showplace.

### LAUDS PARK COMMITTEE

*Oct 11 1934*  
Pioneers' Day, in commemoration of the 152nd anniversary of the arrival in Kentucky of the forbears of Abraham Lincoln, was observed beneath a warm October sun at Lincoln Homestead Park last Sunday. The crowd, estimated at near 1000 people, roamed over the same ground where wilderness once reigned, and thoroughly enjoyed a delightful day.

Governor Ruby Laffoon was the principle speaker. Accompanied by Mrs. Laffoon, the Governor arrived here at noon Sunday, coming from Cumberland Falls, where he spoke Saturday. A reception committee composed of Judge T. Scott Mayes, Joseph Polin, H. B. Gregory, Theo Campbell, John Polin and Mrs. H. B. Gregory, escorted the Governor and Mrs. Laffoon through the Lincoln Country. The party arrived at Lincoln Homestead Park at 2:30 o'clock, where they were met by a detail of the State Guard and escorted to the speakers' stand.

The day was ideal and hundreds of people from all sections of Washington and the surrounding counties, trekked to Lincoln Homestead Park for the celebration. Several hundred folk spent the entire day on the grounds, having brought their food with them. Still others arrived shortly after noon, and from then until 3 o'clock, the cars came in great numbers.

The park area was most attractive. The grass, cut and green; trees and shrubs presenting a profusion of colors; and flowers, seemingly straining a point to be blooming for the occasion, presented a pleasing and attractive scene. Smoke curled from the chimneys as log fires burned in the large fireplaces of the Homestead cabin and clubhouse, to be caught by the gentle October breeze, and carried away up the valley along Lincoln's Run. Old Glory floated on the breeze

moored to the tall pole surmounting the rustic monument marking the spot where Abraham Lincoln, Sr., was slain in 1788.

Judge T. Scott Mayes, acting as Master of Ceremonies, presented the Rev. Orval Baylor. Mr. Baylor delivered an historical and patriotic address. He referred to the coming of the Lincolns in 1782, and spoke of other early arrivals in the wilderness now embraced by the boundary lines of Washington County.

"Historic spots and signal gatherings such as this," Rev. Baylor said, "stir our hearts and arouse our patriotism, and make us glad that we are Americans; living in the best part of the best State of the greatest country in all the world."

"In times like these, no man should boast that he is a political or religious partisan. Our first thought should be of America's welfare. Truly, we can, and should, in this hour, render unto God the things that are His, and unto Our Country and State the things that are theirs. America needs a new birth of patriotic enthusiasm. An enthusiasm that goes deeper than the sound of guns and the clash of sabers; the form that goes deep into the hearts of men and makes them free and happy and content."

Mr. Baylor concluded his remarks by presenting Mrs. Laffoon, introducing her as "the boss of the Executive Mansion." Mrs. Laffoon responded to the applause of the assembly with a few appropriate remarks.

Governor Laffoon was then introduced. His address, nearly an hour in length, was frequently interrupted by hearty applause and shouts of approval.

"This is truly one of Kentucky's beauty spots," the Governor said. "It seems almost unbelievable that so much could be done here in the space of twelve months. With a modern highway, linking this park with Springfield, this spot will become a national showplace. And I'm going to see that you get that highway."

"We haven't done a great deal for Washington County. Maybe that's because some of you folk have been too friendly with some people and not friendly enough with some other people. But we're going to do more for you from now on. We're going to see that this historic country gets a highway, making possible the sure influx of tourists that your shrine deserves."

The Governor revealed that he is a partisan believer in Washington County's claim that Abraham Lincoln was born at Beechland and not in Larue County, when he said, "From what I know about Lincoln history I am convinced that the Immortal Lincoln first saw the light of day right

here in Washington County and not in Larue County. They'll never make me believe that the man who, by one stroke of the pen, emancipated a million or more members of the Negro race, was not born in the same neighborhood where his parents were reared and married."

Devoting considerable time in discussing various features of his administration thus far, the Governor spoke of the bank holiday he declared in February before Roosevelt was inaugurated in March; of the depleted condition of the State Treasury when he became Governor; of the selling of State Warrants at from fifteen to twenty-five cents below par; of legislation enacted taking the tax burden off the land and property owners, and of the enactment of the Sales Tax law.



# WORK AT PARK IN THIS COUNTY NOW UNDER WAY

Surveying And Platting of Lincoln  
Country Being Done By Competent  
Landscape Architect; F.E.R.A.  
Is Cooperating.

## FUN FESTIVAL IS PLANNED

*Oct 17 1934 Sat. Sun*

The work of surveying and platting the Lincoln Homestead Park area and the country thereabout, got underway this week. The work is being done by a competent engineer and landscape architect furnished by the Federal Government through the F.E.R.A.

When the surveying and platting is done, the park officials will have detailed plans and maps to guide them in the big fall and winter improvement program they hope to get underway about November 1st. All of the present buildings, trees, shrubbery, etc., together with every additional feature, will be shown on the plats. This will enable workmen to proceed hereafter with a definite objective.

If there is no hitch between the Governor and F.E.R.A. officials during the coming months, park officials and local relief supervisors plan to keep a considerable number of relief workers busy during the winter. Numerous conferences in which park and relief officials have participated, have been held during the past two weeks. The result of these conferences is a detailed program of work. Every person connected with the Federal Relief Association has been more than sympathetic with the Washington County Historical Society's wish to complete Lincoln Homestead Park on a big scale. This means that if the proposed winter work program gets under way in Kentucky about November 1st, the Lincoln Homestead Park project will be one of the first approved and started.

Plans for the big Hallowe'en Frolic at Bishop's Warehouse are rapidly being whipped into shape by the several committees under the direction of Mrs. Ruel Foster, general chairman. The proceeds from this fun-festival are to be used to supplement government aid in carrying on the proposed work program at Lincoln Homestead Park this winter. Detailed announcement of the program for the frolic will be made next week.

Nearly two-thirds of the amount needed to establish a memorial to Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, has been raised by pupils of the various schools of Washington County. A number of schools have failed to report and it is hoped that when these have been heard from the amount yet lacking will be raised and the memorial can be erected this winter. It is planned to erect a monument with a bronze tablet on the site of the Richard Berry, Sr., home where Nancy Hanks was raised. The tablet will bear the following inscription:

Site of The  
Girlhood Home of  
NANCY HANKS

Mother of  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Here She Lived From 1790

Until She Married Thomas Lincoln  
Not Many Miles From Here In 1806.  
Erected to Her Memory by The School  
Children of Washington County.

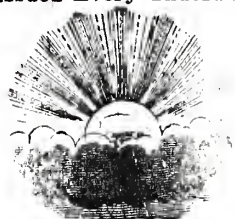
Publication of the names of children

contributing to the fund is being held in abeyance until all of the schools have had ample opportunity to participate. Names of all the contributors will be placed on a scroll to be placed in the museum at Lincoln Homestead Park.

Every child in the schools of Washington County should make a contribution to this worthy cause, however small it may be, in order that he or she may be able to point with pride in years to come to the memorial in which they really have a part and, therefore, a perpetual interest.

# SPRINGFIELD SUN

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## WHAT SHRINES MEAN

As an indication of the attraction of shrines to tourists, the announcement that more than twelve thousand persons visited the Old Kentucky Home at Bardstown during the months of September and October should serve to spur Washington Countians to a renewed effort to assist the Historical Society in its efforts to establish Lincoln Homestead Park as a State Shrine, or, better still, a State Park.

With a State Park in Washington County, and this is wholly within the realm of possibility, with the proper spirit and cooperation of our citizens, it is impossible to estimate the number of tourists who would visit this park annually. It would be an attraction to tourists from all sections of the country, and would insure a constant influx of visitors to our town and county at most all seasons of the year.

Washington County is crossed, on the Southern edge, by two Federal Highways, 150 and 68. These double over the same roadway from Bardstown through Springfield to Perryville, offering tourists traveling over either route an opportunity to visit the historic Lincoln Country within our borders, an attraction that grows in interest as time marches on.

Entering Kentucky at Maysville, motorists travel over Highway 68 through the most historic section of the United States, traveling the entire length of the State. Enroute they may visit the Blue Licks Battlefield, the Home of Clay at Lexington,

scenic value, unsurpassed, perhaps, in the country.

Can Springfield and Washington County afford not to capitalize on the rich inheritances which are theirs by right of possession? It is wholly impossible to remove from our borders the Original Lincoln Country, nor will time detract from its value. No where on earth, in the same narrow space, can be found a territory of such rich historic value, certainly none of more potential worth as a tourist attraction.

Unfortunately for us, in the years that have glided by we have failed to appreciate the value of our possessions, many of which have been permitted to perish or pass from us for a paltry sum. We have not been quick to grasp the importance of the things nearby, looking rather to things possessed by other communities for our entertainment, our source of information, and going elsewhere to see things of less importance than those within our own community, evidently having failed to appreciate them because of their proximity.

Shall we arouse from our lethargy, awaken to our opportunities, and proceed unitedly toward the final establishment of a State Park within our own Lincoln Country, and thus put our town and county on the map as one of the most important of all historic sections of the Bluegrass State, or shall we continue following the lines of least resistance, asleep while others profit at our expense?

There is a golden opportunity open to us at present; fame and fortune is within our grasp if we will only arouse to the occasion and do our bit NOW.

Should more be said?

Brooklyn Bridge, the Palisades on Kentucky River, Shakerstown, Fort Harrod, Perryville Battlefield, Lincoln Homestead Park and the original Lincoln territory in Washington County, the settlement site of the Lincoln family, the boyhood home of the immortal Abe Lincoln's parents, the old Berry Home, the home of Mordecai Lincoln, the site of the home of Josiah Lincoln, the disputed birthplace of the great Emancipator, the home of Governor Pope in this city, the Walton Monument, historic St. Rose, and numerous other points of interest here, thence to Bardstown, where the Old Kentucky Home and St. Joseph's Cathedral may be visited, and from there through the Knob Lick territory to the Lincoln Shrine at Hodgenville. From this point one may drive through the wondrous Cave Region of Kentucky and visit the Jeff Davis Monument, thence through the Asphalt and Pennyroyal regions to Paducah, the home town of Kentucky's noted humorist, Irvin Cobb. This route not only traverses regions rich in historic interest but of important

# SOCIETY PLANS OBSERVANCE OF ABE'S BIRTHDAY

Program Expected To Eclipse That  
Of This Year; Speaker of Note  
Will Deliver Address At  
Lincoln Banquet.

of Sun 12-20-34

## COMMITTEES ARE NAMED

Plans for the Washington County Historical Society's observance of Lincoln's Birthday, February 12th, are now being formulated, according to information reaching The Sun. The observance next year is expected to eclipse that of this year if the proposed plans materialize.

A banquet, with distinguished guests, speaking, and various entertaining features will be Washington County's contribution to the nationwide observance of the immortal Lincoln's birthday. A speaker of national prominence and a thorough student of Lincoln history, will be invited to deliver the principle address. Invitations will be sent to many prominent people both in Kentucky and elsewhere, to attend the banquet and join in honoring Lincoln in his parent's home town.

One feature of the evening will be a playlet, based upon pioneer days in the Lincoln Country. Selection of the cast and rehearsals will take place shortly after the first of the year. Mrs. Eloise Gregory, Mrs. Frances Shultz and Mrs. Leroy Bishop will have charge of this feature.

Other committees named by the president of the society are as follows:

Speaker—Rev. Dewey Kimbel, Joseph Polin and Judge W. F. Grigsby.

Invitations—Mrs. W. D. McElroy, Mrs. C. F. Bosley, Judge T. Scott Mayes, G. L. Wharton and Raymond Thompson.

Reservations—Emma Noonan, Mary Walker, J. H. Barnes, Troll Young and J. B. Williams.

Banquet and Menu Supervision—Mrs. Ruel Foster, Mrs. Decatur Dragoon, Mrs. S. B. Yeager, Mrs. J. F. Pettus and Mrs. Lloyd Haydon.

Music—Theo Campbell, John Polin and H. B. Gregory.

Decorations—Mrs. T. Scott Mayes, Mrs. Will Waters, Veneta Yeager and Gladys Tucker.



# ANNIVERSARY BANQUET PLANS ARE BEING MADE

Historical Society Will Make The  
Occasion An Elaborate Affair  
Honoring Birthday Of  
Abraham Lincoln.

## GUESTS LIMITED TO 100

*Spangham Jan 15*  
Plans for the Lincoln Birthday banquet sponsored by the Washington County Historical Society are rapidly taking form as a number of committees appointed by the president of the society are busy this week. The banquet will be held in the Presbyterian Church on Monday evening, February 12, and the program begins promptly at 6:30 o'clock.

At a meeting of the general committee on Tuesday of this week it was decided to limit the number of guests at the banquet to 100. It is expected that reservations for that number will be filled in short order. The price of the banquet will be fifty cents. Tickets will be ready for distribution before the end of this week but persons desiring to attend should make their reservations immediately by calling either Naomi Rogers or Emma Nunan, members of the committee on reservations. We are informed that at this writing nearly one-half of the 100 plates have been reserved.

The Historical Society plans to make the anniversary banquet an elaborate affair commemorating the 125th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. One feature of the program will be a table reserved for nine persons representing various characters of pioneer days in Washington County. At this table, in appropriate dress, will sit Richard and Rachel Berry, aunt and uncle of Nancy Hanks; Abraham Lincoln, Sr., and his wife, Bersheba; Sarah Mitchell Thompson, Nancy's cousin; Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, and Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd Lincoln.

A speaker of note will deliver an address at the conclusion of the banquet. The program committee is in touch with a person of national reputation and all who attend are assured that there is a good treat in store. Other features planned by the program committee should make the gathering a gala affair.

# BAYLOR STORIES ELICIT INTEREST BRING COMMENTS

Sketches of Trials And Tragedies  
In Washington County Bring The  
Author Many Letters From  
Far And Near.

## ANCIENT DATA SUPPLIED

No single feature, aside from the ever-interesting Lincoln Lore, of Orval W. Baylor's historical sketches in The Sun's weekly department of Washington County History, has met with such favorable response as has his recent articles on "Washington County Trials and Tragedies." Personally and by mail, readers of The Sun have expressed their approval, and according to Mr. Baylor, a large amount of interesting data has been supplied him, for future use, should he see fit to write more of the tragic history of our county.

Among the data supplied by interested readers, is an extract from "The Guardian," a newspaper published before the War Between the States. The clipping is from the issue of September 11, 1858. A heading in bold type, catches the eye, for it reads: "MURDERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR." The story that follows this startling head, was supplied to the Guardian by a person in Louisville who had received his information from a friend in Springfield. The article as it appeared in The Guardian, follows:

"MURDERS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY—MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.  
A letter from Springfield, Ky., to a friend in this city, gives some particulars of two murders in Washington County, near Springfield. Some days since, two men, Henderson and Yocum, made an attack upon a man named Thos. Faris, and in the affray killed Faris' son, the old man escaping for the time. Henderson and Yocum were arrested, and are now in jail in Springfield. On Friday the elder Faris was found in the public road, murdered, not far from his own house. —He was shot, and as yet the murderers are undetected. The affair is enveloped in mystery, but it is probable he was assassinated by those with whom he was at personal enmity. These are all the particulars detailed in the letter."

"It is a strange coincident," says Mr. Baylor, "that this clipping should be sent to me. While making the selection of tragedy sketches for The Sun, I wrote up the killing of Faris and his son, then laid the sketch aside to use another in its stead."

There were more than two persons involved in the killing of Faris' son, and the affray took place at the home of Thomas Faris, according to Mr. Baylor. The killers had gone there for the purpose of administering a flogging to the elder Farris, in punishment for certain slanderous remarks his assailants claimed he had made. Thomas Faris was not at home when the men arrived. The son, another male, and two women were at the house. There were four men in the visiting party, at least two of whom were armed with pistols.

Informed by the occupants of the Faris home that Thomas Faris was not there, the invaders, unsatisfied, sought to enter the house to make search for him. Their entrance was resisted by the son, his cousin, and one of the two women. A lively scuffle ensued. Young Faris scuffled with Henderson and made an attack upon him with a knife. Henderson, as he afterward claimed drew his pistol and shot Faris, in self-defense.

Full details of the foregoing affair will appear in an early offering by Mr. Baylor in our regular department of Washington County History. Of particular interest to ye publishers of this paper, was a check enclosed with the old news clipping. The sender said he didn't want to miss a single issue of The Sun and Mr. Baylor's stories during this new year.

# JAIL ERECTED IN 1810 DECLARED TO BE INSUFFICIENT

*Springfield Sun*  
5-7-35  
Interesting Old Document Unearthed  
In Clerk's Office Here Tells Of  
Plans For County's First  
Stone Prison.

## REJECTED BY COMMITTEE

An interesting old document unearthed in the office of the Clerk of the Washington County Court a few days ago is the 125-year-old plans and specifications for the first stone jail to be erected in the County. Several drawings accompany the detailed specifications.

Washington County has had more jails than Courthouses. There have been just three Courthouses since the formation of the county 143 years ago. Six jails have been set up and used during the same span of years.

Late in the year 1809, the County Court appointed Jesse Head, John Calhoun, Elias Davison, Arthur E. Gibbins, Jacob Seay and John Reed, a commission to let the lowest bidder the building of a new jail in the town of Springfield. The building was to be of stone with a frontage of 34 feet and a depth of 30 feet. The contract was let to Robert Crouch, he being the low bidder at \$2,910. Crouch was required to give bond in the penal sum of \$5,820, or double the amount of his bid. Genl. Mathew Walton was his security.

Crouch bound himself to have the jail under roof by the first of November, 1810, and the entire structure completed by the first day of August, 1811. He agreed to build the jail "on any of the in-lotts or public square in the Town of Springfield, that may be fixed on by the Commissioners & Court." He was to "complete and finish said House in a workmanlike manner with sufficient good stone suitable for such a building."

The foundation was to be sunk three feet under ground and raised so high that the sleepers in the lower floor would be two foot above ground. In the Criminals, and Debtors rooms, the first, second and third floors were laid with oak timber, twelve inches thick. The Criminal rooms were to be lined with oak planks, 1½ inches thick double, sufficiently spiked to the supporting timbers. The window and door frames of the Criminal rooms were to be so constructed that the aforesaid lining might be secured to the frames by spikes and bolts of iron.

All doors of the jail were to be made of oak plank, 1½ inches thick double, and well-fastened together. The doors in the Criminal rooms were to be lined with sheet iron. A "strong, plain stair case shall be on the lower floor," the plans read, "so constructed on the 2nd floor with a trap Door hung with strong strap hinges, and so secured with bolts that the well hole of said stair case may be stopped when necessary."

The partition dividing the two Criminal rooms was to "extend only to the 2nd floor" and be "two feet thick." Fireplaces were provided for the Jailor's compartments. The one below was to be 4½ feet wide; the one above, 2½ feet.

The Commission appointed to superintend the building of the jail seems to have functioned faithfully. The several members thereof paid particular attention to the stone work "in its progress from the foundation," and in a lengthy written report to the County Court gave it as their opinion that "a great part of the Stone work is not sufficiently strong for the purpose of a Jail." A "full view of the whole work at its completion" convinced the commissioners that "the stone work is so intolerably slighted as to render it unfit to be put in any building of any kind whatever." Some parts of the wood-work, they thought, "particularly that essential part the ceiling or some part of it is not done in the manner called for in the Articles signed by the Undertaker, in this that in places it is not doubled in that close manner called for, and the spaces between the timbers in the wall to which the ceiling is spiked are generally more than two feet the distance spoken of in the Articles."

The locks, the Commissioners thought, would be easy "picking" for any inmate desiring to rid himself of involuntary confinement. Of course, the commissioners signing the report, viz, John Reed, Elias Davison, John Calhoun, and A. E. Gibbins, freely confessed that they did not "pretend to be complete judges of every branch of the work." They recommended, therefore, that the Court "for the satisfaction of yourselves and the Undertaker," that the Court "appoint Mechanics skilled in each branch of the work, who may report to you the manner in which the work is completed."



# SOCIETY HERE ENJOYS TALKS

April 11, 1935

Interesting Addresses Delivered By  
Louisville Speakers At Meeting  
Of The Historical Society  
Tuesday Evening.

The Irish had their inning at the Courthouse Tuesday night when addresses were made before the assembled members and friends of the Washington County Historical Society by Col. P. H. Callahan and Judge S. J. Boldrick, both of Louisville. It was the first meeting of this year, marking the resumption of activities after a lapse of several months.

Col. Callahan, the first speaker, delivered a most interesting address on "The Irish in Kentucky." He spoke of the important roles occupied by persons of Irish blood in the State's history. The closing minutes of his address were devoted to a discussion of the struggles and trials of Ireland.

Judge Boldrick, a native of these parts, spoke with particular reference to the Irish of Washington and Marion Counties. He also urged a union of effort on the part of the two counties in the work of marking many of the historical sites that are to be found within the confines of what was once Washington County.

Some pertinent facts relative to the future of Lincoln Homestead Park were presented by O. W. Baylor, president of the society. "It is to be regretted that we have not a larger representation of the membership of our society present tonight," he said, "not alone to hear the two visiting speakers but also to hear the news that we are facing the probability that Lincoln Homestead Park will not be opened to visitors this year—that nothing further will be done and the whole project will go into the discard."

"We are without funds for maintenance and operation," the speaker said, "and the tourist season nears with much needed work undone. While the F.E.R.A. has been cooperating to the extent of furnishing labor for new improvements the work has been greatly handicapped due to the lack of funds with which to purchase necessary materials. Nothing has or can be done in the way of caring for the lawn, planting flowers and shrubs, and putting the park area in a presentable way. The outlook at present is most unpromising and it now seems that instead of a showplace to attract tourists to Washington County, the park will stand as a reminder of a project that died a-borning."

Automobile Clubs and Tourist Information Bureaus have been writing for descriptive literature, Mr. Baylor said, but he has been forced to write them that there is none available and that there is a likelihood that the park will not operate this year.

An interesting program is in the making for the meeting of the society on the second Tuesday night in May. An address by some member of the faculty or student body of St. Rose on "The Origin and Growth of Catholicity in Washington County," will be one of the features of the May meeting, it was announced.

## YOU CAN HELP BEAUTIFY PARK

*Springfield, Ky. - Sun*  
Contribution of Seeds, Available At  
Low Cost, Will Make Possible The  
Beautification of Lincoln  
Homestead Grounds.

*4-25-35*  
Would you like to help make Lincoln Homestead Park a place of beauty this summer? Of course you would. Well, here's how to do it.

In The Louisville Times last Tuesday evening there appeared a coupon which, if mailed to the Garden Editor of The Courier-Journal, together with the required number of 3-cent stamps, will get four varieties of popular, wonderful Zinnias. Clip that coupon and write in the name Lincoln Homestead Park, Springfield, Kentucky. Enclose the required number of stamps and mail to the specified address. That's all you have to do. The seeds will come direct to the park officials and they will see that the seeds are properly planted.

The cooperation of a great many will assure that Lincoln Homestead Park will be a place of beauty this summer. Help shower the park with flowers.

Persons having shrubs or flowers for permanent planting at the Park would confer a favor by communicating with Park officials here.

# MUCH INTEREST SHOWN HERE IN HISTORIC WORK

Largest Crowd Ever Present at Meet  
Of Historical Society Tuesday  
Evening; Frolic Planned  
For Next Week.

*Springfest Sun May 9, 1935*  
**COMMITTEES ARE NAMED**

One of the largest crowds ever to attend a meeting of the Washington County Historical Society was present at the Court House Tuesday night. The fact so many attended is evidence that interest in the society and its work is still at high pitch.

Two well-prepared and interestingly read papers, the first on "Catholicity in Washington County" and the other on "History in Old Wills," were presented by the Rev. C. A. Hannon, O.P., and the Rev. Orval W. Baylor, respectively. The Sun has secured copies of the two addresses and we plan to present them to our readers.

Father Hannon's treatise of "Catholicity in Washington County," was all-inclusive. He traced the growth of the Catholic Church and her several institutions in Washington County from the time of the coming of the Catholic emigrants from Maryland, about the year 1785, to the present day. He reviewed the steps which led to the establishment of the priory of St. Rose and the convent of St. Catharine. Readers of The Sun will do well to preserve the print of the address for it is unquestionably the most concise, yet all-inclusive presentation of "Catholicity in Washington County" that has been prepared.

The Rev. Baylor's address on "History in Old Wills," was another presentation of exceptional merit. Calling attention to the controversies over probates of wills in England prior to the founding of the government of the State of Virginia, the Rev. Baylor pointed out the reasons for the enactment of the Virginia statute governing probates which differed from that of the mother country. Where there had been a conflict over jurisdiction in England between the courts spiritual and temporal, such was avoided in Virginia, and later in Kentucky, by the placing of probates and settlements in the County Courts, the speaker said.

The society voted to hold a Benefit Frolic at Bishop's Warehouse on Tuesday night, May 14th, and Joe Bishop, T. C. Campbell and John Polin were appointed a committee to arrange for the affair. The proceeds of the frolic will be used to provide materials for construction work at Lincoln Homestead Park.

The Rev. Dewey Kimbel, J. F. Pettus and Mrs. R. E. Foster were named a committee to confer with the State Relief Administrator with the view to securing government aid in the employment of a competent superintendent for Lincoln Homestead Park during the season of 1935.

A committee to ascertain the site of the first Court House in Washington County and report to the historical society recommendations for erecting a suitable marker thereon was named by the chairman. The first name for the settlement, which later took the name of Springfield, was Washington Courthouse. It was pointed out during the course of discussion on this feature that the first Courthouse, a log building, did not stand on the site of the present seat of justice. This committee is composed of Miss Emma Noonan, Mrs. C. F. Bosley and C. J. Haydon, Sr.

Plans for making June 12th, the day on which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married, a day for annual observance, were announced and the following general committee appointed: Mrs. R. E. Foster, chairman, Mrs. J. C. Mudd, Mrs. T. Scott Mayes, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Mrs. Frances Shultz, Mrs. Troll Young, Mrs. W. D. McElroy, Mrs. C. F. Bosley, Miss Emma Noonan, T. C. Campbell, J. F. Pettus, H. L. Smith, John Polin, Joe Bishop, H. B. Gregory, J. B. Williams and Will Waters. The Rev. Dewey Kimbel, Judge Fred Grigsby and Judge H. E. Case were named a committee to secure a speaker for the June 12th gathering.

The next meeting of the society will be held on Tuesday night, June 4th, when another interesting program will be given.



# Wind Storm In County Causes Severe Losses

Several Barns Demolished, School House Unroofed, Several Cattle Killed And Numerous Shade Trees Uprooted.

## OLD BERRY HOUSE HIT

*Spuyler Sun May 9, 1935*

A freak windstorm swept over Washington County early last Friday morning and caused damage in various places, apparently lifting and striking in widely separated communities. In some sections trees were uprooted, telephone and lighting service impaired, barns and other outbuildings unroofed and otherwise damaged, one school building in this county was wrecked, and several head of livestock killed.

The wind was accompanied by a heavy rainfall and the temperature took a sudden tumble, causing considerable inconvenience to many householders who had permitted their fires to die out.

In the Booker section the wind reached almost cyclonic proportions over a small area. On the farm of W. N. Keeling a large barn was demolished and on the farm of H. K. Curtsinger a barn was wrecked and a large henhouse, recently erected at a cost of about \$200, was badly damaged. A number of trees in that section were uprooted and several other minor losses reported.

At Willisburg a number of severe losses were reported. In this section a barn on the farm of Oscar Colvin was unroofed and the main structure badly twisted; a barn on the farm of Butler Shewmaker badly damaged and a barn on the farm of J. R. Rose was badly twisted and the Rose residence injured slightly. Mrs. Ida Sanders also reported damage to a poultry house. Many trees were uprooted in the same section.

On the farm of R. A. Wheatley on Booker Road, a short distance from this city, a large barn was completely wrecked, one cow killed outright and two other cows so badly injured they are worthless, and a piece of timber from the wrecked building struck and crippled a valuable mule. Sixteen large shade trees were blown down and the roof of the Wheatley residence damaged. A nice orchard nearby also was severely damaged. On the same night lightning struck and killed a mule belonging to Jack Montgomery on the Taylor Spaulding farm on Willisburg Road.

Pleasant Run Schoolhouse, located near Texas, was lifted off the foundation, the entire roof blown off and the main structure badly damaged. Several large trees in the vicinity were uprooted. A tenant house on the farm of Charlie Hatchett also was badly damaged.

In the Hardesty section several losses were reported, including destruction of a large barn on the farm of Gray Bros.

A barn on the C. W. Stallings place was blown down, the residence of Ballard Settle was badly damaged and a smokehouse on the Settle place wrecked.

One building of historic interest and value to feel the effects of the storm was the old Francis Berry house near Litsey. The roof of this building was blown off and the large stone chimney demolished.

The Berry house, built of logs in 1798, is now owned by the J. O. Polin heirs, having been in possession of the Polin family for many years. Joseph and John A. Polin, members of the Springfield bar, were born and spent their early life in the old Berry House and prize the building highly. They already have plans under way for complete restoration of the building, which is of special historic value because of the fact Nancy Hanks, mother of the immortal Abe Lincoln, made her home with the Berry family there from 1804 to 1806, and it was in this old home, according to evidence cited by O. W. Baylor, local historian, that Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married June 12, 1806.

Officials of the Washington County Historical Society have been making plans to enlarge Lincoln Homestead Park so as to include the old Berry House in the park area so that it may be refurnished and opened to visitors to the Original Lincoln Country here.

In addition to the above losses, there were about a half-hundred minor losses reported, including slight damage to roofs, flues and chimneys in different localities, the total losses running into thousands of dollars.

## LINCOLN PARK BENEFIT DANCE TUESDAY EVENING

There will be a big dance at Bishop's Pavilion in this city next Tuesday evening, May 14, the proceeds to be used for the benefit of Lincoln Homestead Park. There will be old-fashioned and modern dancing, bingo and other amusements for the public.

Prior to the dancing there will be a musical concert by Skeets Morris and his Hillbillies. The hours are 8 to 1.

# CELEBRATION TO BE OUTSTANDING HISTORIC EVENT

Lincoln Marriage Memorial Meeting  
At Homestead Park Here on June  
Twelfth Expected To Be  
Tri-State Affair.

## INTEREST IS WIDESPREAD

*Spuyt June May 23-1935*  
Plans for a Tri-State observance of the 129th anniversary of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks at Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th, were announced this week by the committee in charge. The observance this year will eclipse that of last year if the proposed program is carried out.

The day's program will feature the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument and a pageant reenacting the marriage of Lincoln's parents. Invitations have been sent to the Governors of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois inviting them to participate in person or by a designated representative. Unveiling of the legend scroll on the north wall of the monument will be one of the highlights of the dedicatory exercises. Three young ladies, one each from Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois, will join in the unveiling.

The wedding pageant will include characters representing Thomas Lincoln, Nancy Hanks, Jesse Head and many other pioneer residents of the Lincoln Country. It is planned to have this feature take place at high-noon.

The list of speakers for the day is as yet not complete. Several distinguished persons have been invited by the speakers committee and full announcement will be made just as soon as the list is completed.

Mrs. Ruel Foster, general chairman, today released the following committees with the request that the chairman of each committee call his committee together at once and proceed with plans and work. Each chairman is asked to report to Mrs. Foster as soon as possible. Owing to the shortness of time it is imperative that all plans and work be pushed with dispatch. The committees follow:

Wedding Pageant—Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Mrs. Katherine Mayes, Mrs. Frances Shultz.

Cabin Hostesses—Mrs. C. F. Bosley, Mrs. Dolly Bateman, Miss Emma Noonan.

Music—T. C. Campbell, Joe Bishop.  
Food and Lunch—Mrs. Sarah Settle, Chairman; Mrs. Frank Simms, Mrs. Green Hays, Mrs. F. M. Warren, Mrs. Mattie Dragoo, Mrs. S. B. Yeager, Mrs. Sally Moran, Mrs. R. C. Bottom, Mrs. Dr. Hopper, Mrs. J. L. Moran.

Decorations—Mrs. Katherine Mayes, Mrs. Troll Young, Gladys Tucker, Veneta Yeager, Charles Waters.

Stands, Seats, Tents—J. F. Pettus, Luther Burns, John Polin, A. H. Barber.

Drinks and Refreshments—Bert Thompson, J. Paul Bishop, John I. Pettus.

Bingo—Joseph Polin, H. L. Smith, Leroy Bishop, Clell Boblitt.

Patrol—H. B. Gregory, Herman Smith, Edward Goatley.

The first named of each committee will serve as chairman.

Lincoln Homestead Park will be an attractive place at the time of the celebration next month. Hundreds of flowers, shrubs and trees are being planted. A lily and fish pool is nearing completion. Sun dials, bird baths, stone seats, rustic arbors, and many other attractive features are being added to the park area. Attractively laid gardens, stone walk-ways, and, chief of all, the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument, will be ready for the great host of visitors on June 12th.

While the season for tourists is yet young, many visitors from afar have been seen at Lincoln Homestead Park during the past few weeks. Last year's average of approximately fifty visitors per week will be eclipsed this season, park sponsors believe. Widespread interest in Washington County's Lincoln shrine is indicated by the many requests for information that reach here.



# JUNE TWELFTH TO BE COUNTY'S BIGGEST DAY

## GOVERNORS OF THREE STATES ARE EXPECTED

Committees Busy Planning For Great  
Historical Program At Lincoln  
Homestead Park; Wedding  
Pageant At Noon.

*Spokane Star 5-30-35*  
**WILL DEDICATE MEMORIAL**

"It's going to be Washington County's biggest day—the outstanding historical event in Kentucky during 1935!" That's the sentiment of every member of the planning committee working for the gala day at Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th.

Numerous committees, working under the direction of Mrs. Ruel Foster, general chairman, are busy with the planning and arranging for the coming event. Workmen, plenty of them, will be busy every day getting everything in readiness at the park. Finishing touches on the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument and other improvements will occupy the time of the workmen until the day before the celebration.

The program committee is holding announcement of the complete list of features for the day in abeyance awaiting word from all the persons who have been invited to take part. The completed program will be published next week.

It is expected that the Governors of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois will participate either in person or by official representatives. Governor Ruby Laffoon has notified the Planning Committee that he will attend and that he has sent official requests on behalf of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to Governors McNutt and Hornor of Indiana and Illinois to meet him at Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th.

The tentative program calls for the formal opening of festivities at the park at 10:30 a. m. There will be a short band concert on the Courthouse grounds in Springfield at 9:30 o'clock, after which the band will go to the park. The opening feature at the park will be the raising of Old Glory to the top of the tall flag pole that rises from the center of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument. Next in

order will be the Wedding Pageant, at high-noon. Preceded by a company of Colonial Maids, the bride and groom, the officiating minister, the numerous attendants, and a large group of wedding guests, all in pioneer costumes, will march in order to the large platform that is to be erected on the cabin lot. Reading of the impressive marriage ceremony of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the same used by the Rev. Jesse Head on that memorable June 12th, one hundred and twenty-nine years ago, will take place from the platform.

After the pageant there will be a cessation in the formal exercises until 2:30 p. m., when the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Memorial will take place. Addresses by the Governors or their official representatives attending will be followed by the unveiling of the legend scroll. Three young ladies, known as Miss Kentucky, Miss Indiana and Miss Illinois, will raise the veil, uncovering the scroll that will forever stand as a memorial to the Washington County girl who gave to the world the now immortal Abraham Lincoln.

The tentative cast of characters for the Wedding Pageant is as follows: Thomas Lincoln, Nancy Hanks, Jesse Head, Sarah Mitchell, Francis Berry, Elizabeth Berry, Mordecai Lincoln, Mary Lincoln, Peter Sibert, Virginia Maids, Flower Girls, Pioneer Lads, Friends of the Bride, Wedding Guests.

To assure success of the Wedding Pageant the general chairman has named the following committee to supervise the cast selection and costumes: Mrs. Dewey Kimbel, Mrs. Nat Thompson, Mrs. Leroy Bishop, Mrs. Finley Thompson and Miss Louise Osbourne. This committee is requested to meet with Mrs. Foster and Mr. Baylor on Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the office of the County Court Clerk.

In view of the fact that there will be many visitors passing through Springfield enroute to and from Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th, the Planning Committee extends an urgent invitation to the merchants and towns-people to decorate their stores and homes for the occasion.

## COL. C. E. WOODS WILL BE SPEAKER AT LINCOLN PARK

Classmate of Late I. H. Thurman And  
Relative of Minister Who Married  
Tom Lincoln and Nancy Hanks  
Will Honor Program.

### FORMER NEWSPAPER MAN

One of the features of the June 12th program at Lincoln Homestead Park will be the symposium of history and reminiscences. A number of old-timers will have part in this feature among whom will be Col. Clarence E. Woods, of Sidney, Ill. Col. Woods has been invited to participate and he has written that he will be on hand with plenty of interesting anecdotes.

Col. Woods has more than passing interest in the June 12th commemoration of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks for, the Rev. Jesse Head was his grandmother's uncle—she was Nancy Rodman, whose home was in the Beech Fork Country of Washington County and near that of the Lincolns.

The Rodmans were early settlers in Washington County. David Rodman was Sheriff of the county more than 100 years ago. He was an uncle of Nancy Rodman. Jesse Head spent much time in the home of Nancy Rodman's parents. Two of Nancy's sisters were wives of two well-known farmers, Tom and Henry Williams. George Rodman, brother of David Rodman, moved to Larue County and lived near the Lincoln home. He was present at the first inauguration of Abraham Lincoln in 1861 and presented him with a gold-headed cane cut from a tree on the spot in Larue where it is said Lincoln was born.

Col. Woods was a classmate at Central University, Richmond, with the late Judge I. H. Thurman and the Hon. J. C. W. Beckham. That was in 1884-5. Of that association, Col. Woods writes:

"Ike Thurman's life story is fine as told from his own lips in college, when he declined my offer to defray his Senior year expenses because his mother was dependent upon him and he had to quit college in his Junior year, like Beckham did the same spring, 1885, both called home by necessity due to the death of their fathers. As a college mate of Beckham and Ike, I petitioned the former, while Governor, to appoint Ike Thurman as successor to Judge Patterson—and he wrote, 'OK'."

*over*



"Beckham was the gold prize student of the university in his Freshman year, a tall, delicate, modest, studious lad, while Ike Thurman was robust and athletic and captained teams, while gold prize Junior orator and the most popular man in the whole college.

"Dying slowly, callers forbidden to see him. When Ike heard that I was at the door of his handsome home in Springfield, he sent his wife to escort me to his bedside, and exclaimed feebly: 'Old Woods, the faithful Woods.' I fell upon my knees and kissed his hand in reverence and love."

Writing of other persons he knew, Col Woods continues his narrative:

"Then I knew a famed ball player there, Charlie Noe, and his brothers and the Waters brothers, the heroes of the team that never let Lebanon win a game until Sam Fontaine won through his modern pitching.

"I have visited the tomb of Abe Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, and the spots where he and Douglas debated furiously. Illinois has marked with enduring tablets every place Abe Lincoln ever spit out a chew of long green tobacco, so precious is his memory."

The symposium of history and reminiscences on June 12th will undoubtedly prove interesting. Traditions from the lips of contemporaries of Abraham Lincoln must ere long be read instead of heard from the generation to which Col. Woods and others belong.

Col. Woods is a former newspaper man and is probably as well known in newspaper circles as any other Kentuckian. He is now an honorary member of the Kentucky Press Association and, despite his age, a gifted speaker and writer.

## *Stage Set For Tri-State Observance Of Lincoln Marriage On June 12th*



**W**HEN the first strains of the band are heard on the Court House Square, in Springfield, next Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock, the long-looked-for Tri-State observance of the 129th anniversary of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks will be underway. From thence on and until late in the evening, the program will continue.

Formal exercises at Lincoln Home-  
stead Park will begin at 10:30 a. m. A large American flag will be presented to the Washington County Historical Society by the Lincoln Protective Club of Louisville. Judge J. J. Kavanaugh, president of the club, will make the presentation address. Col. John Polin will respond in behalf of the local society. Following the speeches the flag will be raised to fly from the flag pole that rises from the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument. A large number of members of the Lincoln Protective Club will attend the celebration, according to word received here.

"All that I am, or ever hope to  
be, I owe to my angel mother."  
A. LINCOLN"

Three young ladies, to be known as Miss Kentucky, Miss Indiana and Miss Illinois, will pull the cords, raising the American flag that will cover the scroll until the moment of unveiling.

The Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument has been built of native stone. There is a stone wall surrounding a flag-stone court. In the center of the court there is a vine-covered pile of boulders surmounted by a flag pole that rises to the height of 40 feet. The legend scroll is located on the



At 11:30 a. m. the Wedding Pageant will get underway. Characters for this feature of the day's program have been selected and the re-enactment of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, it is expected, will be the most colorful event ever staged in Washington County. A cast of characters for the pageant appears elsewhere in this issue.

Dedication of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument is set for 1:30 p. m. The Rev. O. W. Baylor, president of the Washington County Historical Society, will tell of Nancy Hanks' association with Washington County. The Hon. Ruby Laffoon, Governor of Kentucky, will then be presented to speak in behalf of the Commonwealth. Following Governor Laffoon will come Governor Paul V. McNutt of Indiana, and Governor Henry Horner of Illinois, or their official representatives, speaking in behalf of their respective States.

Following the dedicatory addresses will come the unveiling of the legend scroll. The scroll contains the following words:

"In Memory of/Nancy Hanks/  
Mother of Abraham Lincoln/Born  
1783. Resident of Washington  
County, Ky., from 1790 to 1806,  
Died 1818./

north wall. The monument was designed by J. G. Baldwin, Washington County Work Supervisor and engineer for the F.E.R.A. The legend scroll was also designed and executed by Mr. Baldwin.

At 3:00 o'clock the Hon. Edwin P. Morrow, ex-Governor of Kentucky, will deliver an address. The oratorical ability and eloquence of Mr. Morrow are well known to all Kentuckians and his address is expected to be one of the high-lights of the program.

A symposium of reminiscences and anecdotes is scheduled for 4:00 o'clock. Col. Clarence Woods of Sidney, Illinois, will preside over this feature.

Lincoln Homestead Park will be open at an early hour to receive the great host of visitors on June 12th. A detachment of the local unit of the Kentucky Guards will be on hand to direct traffic and patrol the grounds. A crew of workmen started work Tuesday on the county road extending from the Valley Hill Schoolhouse on the Bloomfield Road to the park. The new tractor and grader, recently purchased by the Washington County Court, will be put into service on this road next Monday morning. Road markers will be placed on all highways leading to Springfield and Lincoln Homestead Park directing the visitors via Valley Hill to the park. Residents of Springfield may desire to avoid the heavy traffic and go to the park via the Poortown pike. This pike is rough in places but passable and the distance not as great as the other route.

(Continued on Page 7)

## Lincoln Wedding Pageant

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD PARK  
Washington County, Ky.  
June 12, 1935

Commemorating the 129th Anniversary of the Marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, parents of Abraham Lincoln, who were married at Francis Berry's house near Beechland, Ky., on June 12, 1806.

### CAST

Interpreter.....	O. W. Baylor
Thomas Lincoln.....	James Gregory
Nancy Hanks.....	Marion Campbell
Jesse Head.....	Rev. J. R. McAfee
Sarah Mitchell.....	Bess Campbell Barber
Peter Sibert.....	James A. Walker
Francis Berry.....	Mitchell Walker
Elizabeth Berry.....	Lalla Robertson
Mordecai Lincoln.....	W. C. McChord
Mary Lincoln.....	Mary Litsey Thompson
Flower Girls—Edna Jean Baylor, Ann Garland Jeffries, Sarah McClure, Jean Overall.	
Pioneer Lads—Meredith Hooper, Louis Beckner, Sonny Gordon, John Y. Mayes, James McClure.	
Friends of the Bride—Laura Arnold, Lucille Litsey, Lucille Thompson, Ann Hays, Mary Hale, Ruby Litsey, Martha Rudd, Alice Thompson, Mary Litsey Thompson, Christine Shehan.	
Virginia Maids—Margaret Arnold, Mildred Cocanougher, Lucille Burns, Jane Hagan, Agnes Janes, Frances Cocanougher, Florence Grigsby, Margie Goode.	

coln homestead park directing the visitors via Valley Hill to the park. Residents of Springfield may desire to avoid the heavy traffic and go to the park via the Poortown pike. This pike is rough in places but passable and the distance not as great as the other route.

Dinner will be served by the ladies of the Historical Society in the spacious club house. A refreshment stand will be maintained on the grounds. Persons desiring to bring their picnic baskets may do so. Two large fields, adjacent to the park grounds, will be open for parking of autos. No parking will be permitted on the highways adjacent to the grounds.

Lincoln Homestead will be open for visitors, with the Marriage Bond of Thomas Lincoln and the Minister's Return of the Wedding of Lincoln's parents on display therein. An admission fee of 15 cents will be charged. Mrs. C. F. Bosley, Miss Emma Noonan and Mrs. Dolly Bateman will serve as hostesses.

The grand climax to the day's festivities will be the wedding dance and infare at Bishop's Pavilion at night. The bridal party, in costume will attend. The night's festivities will begin at 8 o'clock. Old-fashioned and modern dancing will be featured. Proceeds of the dance will go to the Lincoln Park Maintenance Fund.

### Reception Committee Named

Members of the committee to receive and escort the speakers who are to participate in the June 12th celebration were announced today. The committee is as follows: Rev. Dewey Kimbel, Gabe Wharton, Judge Fred Grigsby, Judge H. E. Case, John M. Smothers.

### Other Assignments Made

Joseph Polin, vice-president of the Washington County Historical Society, will preside at the flag raising exercises, scheduled as the opening feature of the program.

Judge T. Scott Mayes will preside at the dedicatory exercises and present the Governor of Kentucky and the other distinguished speakers who will share in the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument.

Judge Fred Grigsby will preside at the afternoon session and present ex-Governor Edwin P. Morrow who is to deliver an address on "Lincoln, The Immortal."

The Rev. O. W. Baylor will act as master of ceremonies for the Wedding Pageant. As such, he will give a brief narration of the historical background, present the characters as they appear, etc.



# Lincoln Homestead Park Near Springfield Is Dedicated

## Washington County Historical Society Plans to Expand It to 300 Acres.

By ALLAN M. TROUT.

Staff Correspondent, The Courier-Journal.

Springfield, Ky., June 12.—The Lincoln Homestead Park, six-acre heart of the original Lincoln country, was dedicated five miles north of here today on the grounds that Abraham Lincoln's forbears cleared from the wilderness in 1782.

Standing within a stone's throw of the reconstructed cabin of Lincoln's grandfather, A. O. Stanley dedicated the grounds to the memory of him whose "way was dominated and directed by a single, overmastering passion—the liberation of men."

Stanley, former Governor and United States Senator, recalled that he began his career forty years ago as a school teacher near the historic shrine.

Fashioned into a frontier homestead, the little park is now the property of the Washington County Historical Society. Plans are under way to expand it into a great area of 300 acres, embracing the original homesteads of Lincoln's paternal and maternal ancestors.

"Ah, what a shrine is that," Senator Stanley exclaimed, pointing to the replica of the cabin of Abraham Lincoln, Sr.

"In 1,000 long years there has been nothing sweeter or sadder than the short, drab life of Nancy Hanks, mother of the immortal Lincoln. But I can see a ray of sunshine stealing through the gloom as she stood in a cabin like that and pledged her troth to Thomas Lincoln. I can see another ray bursting through as she pressed to her bosom of the great soul of her little son—then sank to an endless sleep, leaving little Abe only her mother's legacy of a boundless love," he said.

The destiny of a Nation was cradled there, nurtured by the heroic souls of Lincoln's ancestors, Senator Stanley said.

"Up from the depths came Lincoln—from the dirt floor of a windowless cabin in the wilderness to the Presidency of the United States," he said.

Senator Stanley extolled the memory of Lincoln, sire of the Republican Party, in the light of his similarity to Jefferson, stalwart of the Democratic Party.

### Compares Jefferson, Lincoln.

"Jefferson was the Democrat and aristocrat, and sometimes the autocrat; a philosopher and politician; sentimentalist and scientist; thinker, dreamer and doer; inventor and scholar; writer and statesman—he enthralled his followers and fascinated while infuriating his foes," Senator Stanley said.

"Then comes the rugged features of Lincoln," he continued. "Upon the firm lips there lingers the suspicion of a smile, and in those deep-set wistful eyes there is much of patience, of wisdom, of sorrow. In the words of another, he had the brains of a philosopher, the heart of a mother; he was as patient as destiny, whose decipherable hero-

glyphs were deeply graven on his sad and tragic face.

"In their eternals, how different, and yet in their essentials how similar are these immortals! Lincoln struck the manacles from the limbs of the slave, and Jefferson, shackles from the mind of man," he said.

The little park contains all aspects of a frontier home. The replica of the old Lincoln cabin is constructed of logs 150 years old. It stands on the original site, atop a hill that commands a clear view of the rolling countryside. A few paces from the cabin flows Lincoln Run, while across the creek there is the spring that furnished the pioneer family its never-ending supply of fresh water.

A rough fence of hand-hewn poles incloses the area, and irregular walks of native stone have been constructed to various points of interest in the tract. The spring has been deepened and walled up with native stone. Outside the cabin there is a pioneer water trough, hewn from a huge log. At one end of the cabin, on the outside, hangs an oxen yoke.

### Marriage Bond In Cabin.

The cabin has been furnished with fittings of the frontier era, including many items of the Lincoln family. Prominent among the latter is the original marriage bond between Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, parents of Lincoln. Today, it was guarded by a detail of National Guardsmen.

A pulpit, made by the Rev. Jesse Head, pastor who married Thomas and Nancy, was in the cabin and on it a visitor's register.

Hard by the little log home on the banks of Lincoln Run, a simple stone memorial marks the place where Lincoln's grandfather was slain by an Indian in 1788. According to legend, the redskin was brought to a similar fate soon after by Mordecai Lincoln, one of Abraham's uncles. A slender cedar shaft surmounts the memorial and from its top floated the largest American flag on the grounds today.

A rustic clubhouse has been constructed on the highest knoll of the tract. An inspiring view of the breeze-swept plateau may be had from the wide porches that flank both sides of the clubhouse.

The Rev. O. W. Baylor, president of the historical society and general chairman of today's celebration, gave a brief history of the project as the background for Senator Stanley's address.

"Less than a year ago," he said, "two of us stood on that slope there and looked over this scene. The hillsides were covered with grub sprouts, briars, weeds, brambles. Fences were decaying and run down. Mosquitoes and chiggers abounded. Altogether, it was an uninviting scene.

### Only Beginning, Baylor Says.

"But we resolved to put a marker here. We didn't know whether it would be wood, stone or bronze. But we were determined to put some sort of a memorial here at the very core of the great Lincoln country, the original Lincoln country. You can

see what has happened, and this is only the beginning."

Mrs. Emma Guy Cromwell, director of State parks, gave the society an idea of expansion possibilities at an informal meeting in the clubhouse, prior to the formal ceremonies outside.

If as many as 300 acres can be obtained and deeded to the State, she explained, it then would be possible to include the area in the State park system for scientific development and improvement in co-operation with the park programme of the Department of the Interior. If 300 acres cannot be obtained, she explained, the tract can be established as a shrine.

"Kentucky as the greatest park possibilities of any State in the Union," Mrs. Cromwell said. "We have an abundance of history, romance, scenery, heroism and beauty and, I am happy to report, we are developing it rapidly. Such groups as yours are leading the way."

The historical society is a recently-organized agency for collection and preservation of Washington County history and lore, especially Lincolniana.

"No name is more attractive than that of Lincoln," the Rev. Mr. Baylor said in response to Mrs. Cromwell's speech, "and no lore as romantic as that surrounding the Lincolns."

### Other Leaders In Society.

Other leaders in the society include Gabe Wharton, chairman of the executive committee; Mrs. Hugh B. Gregory, Raymond Thompson, Hugh B. Gregory, Mrs. Frances Schultz and Miss Emma Noman, the latter historian of the group.

Joseph Polin, county attorney, introduced Senator Stanley. A member of the reception committee, Mr. Polin was joined in greeting Senator Stanley by Judge W. F. Grigsby, Judge T. Scott Mayes and Dr. H. J. Boone. The speaker and Mrs. Cromwell were guests of honor at a luncheon in a private dining-room at the clubhouse.

A business holiday was declared in Springfield to enable all the townsmen to attend the fete. Girl graduates of the Springfield High School class of 1934, dressed in frontier costumes, served as hosts throughout the day. A band from Bardstown furnished music.

This boyhood home of Thomas Lincoln—he lived there until he was 25 years old—is near the site of the settlement of Richard Berry, Sr., where Nancy Hanks was reared. The old Berry cabin has been remodeled, with many of the original timbers

used in the reconstruction. The old log meat house still stands, containing a giant meat log.

Berry's blacksmith and carpenter shop, where Thomas Lincoln learned his trade and courted Nancy, was near the home. The site of the little cabin where the parents of Lincoln were married and began housekeeping was nearby.

Under expansion plans now afoot for the Lincoln Homestead Park, such scenes as those would be included in the area desired for development into a State park.

## MARK ANNIVERSARY OF LINCOLN PARENTS

Representatives of Indiana,  
Kentucky and Illinois At-  
tend Ceremony.

1935

SPRINGFIELD, Ky., June 12.—(P)  
—Representatives of the govern-  
ments of Kentucky, Indiana and Illi-  
nois gathered here today to observe  
the 129th anniversary of the mar-  
riage of Abraham Lincoln's parents,  
Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

Formal exercises on the program  
began with presentation of an  
American flag from the Lincoln Pro-  
tective Club of Louisville to the  
Washington County Historical Soci-  
ety at Lincoln Homestead park. The  
flag is to fly atop the Nancy Hanks  
Memorial Monument. The memorial  
dedication was on the afternoon pro-  
gram, with Governor Ruby Laffoon  
and the Rev. O. W. Baylor, president  
of the historical society, officiating.

### Bears Tribute to Mother.

The monument bears a scroll car-  
rying Lincoln's words: "All that I  
am or ever hope to be, I owe to my  
angel mother." Vine-covered boul-  
ders support a flagstaff in the center  
of the monument, a stone wall sur-  
rounding a paved court.

Preceding the dedication was a  
pageant re-enacting the marriage on  
June 12, 1806, at the home of Fran-  
cis Berry near Beechland, Ky. The  
afternoon program included an ad-  
dress by former Governor Edwin P.  
Morrow and a symposium presided  
over by Col. Clarence Woods of Sid-  
ney, Ill. Judge T. Scott Mayes was  
master of ceremonies at the morning  
exercises and Judge Fred Grisby in  
the afternoon.



## SCENES AT LINCOLN PARK DEDICATION



Top, Left to Right—Section of crowd and W. M. Cheser, Bloomfield, member of the Fourth Kentucky Infantry in the War Between the States and the only Union veteran at the celebration.

Second Row, Left to Right—Former United States Senator A. O. Stanley and Miss Ruth Hays, daughter of R. Green Hays and a great great niece of the Rev. Jesse Head, representing Mary Todd Lincoln, and, at extreme right, replica of the log cabin home of the parents of Abraham Lincoln.

Bottom, Left—The Rev. Orval W. Baylor, president of the Washington County Historical Society.



# Lincoln Born in Washington County Too, Says Springfield

Vincennes Commercial 6.14.35  
By The Rambler

Washington county, Ky., which sponsored ceremonies this week commemorating the 129th wedding anniversary of the parents of Abraham Lincoln there, likewise claims to be the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln.

Washington county doesn't plan to make any big row about it. It is not going to propose that the federal government move the log cabin, enshrined near Hodgenville in Hardin county, to Washington county, or anything like that. It is going to be content with recognition as being the home of Nancy Hanks and Tom Lincoln before they were married and that it is the site of the original Lincoln homestead. But it will continue to contend quietly at least that the honor that goes to Hodgenville rightfully belongs to Washington county and it claims legal proof, despite the fact that Abraham Lincoln himself in that brief biography gave Hardin county as his birthplace.

The Rambler gathered all this from J. S. Moran, editor of the Springfield Sun. His grandfather told him about it and his grandfather learned it from his dad or grandpa who lived thereabouts in the days when Tom and Nancy were young.

But Hodgenville is no more worried over it than Vincennes would be if Terre Haute claimed it was there that George Rogers Clark captured Fort Sackville.

## Tax Receipt Cited.

Washington county claims that Lincoln was born in Washington county and while he was a baby in arms, his parents moved to Hodgenville and that the enshrined cabin there now was originally located in Washington county. And as proof, they have a tax receipt that Tom Lincoln paid for owning property in Washington county a year after Abraham was born.

Here is the story that Editor Moran told the Rambler:

## Grandfather Murdered.

On the east side of a small creek that afterward took the name of Lincoln's Run, the first Lincoln cabin in Kentucky was built by the pioneer Abraham and his three sons, Mordecai, Josiah and Thomas. For about 20 years this cabin was the home of the forbears of President Lincoln. It was finally abandoned in 1802 and after standing a number of years was torn down.

In 1788, Abraham Lincoln, Sr., was slain by an Indian while hunting

with his sons, Mordecai and Josiah. It was here that Vincennes and Washington county are linked together, for George Rogers Clark, according to tradition, organized a posse which hunted for the assassin. Tradition has it that the Indian was afterward slain by Mordecai Lincoln and also that the slain Abraham was buried on a bluff overlooking the Beech Fork, about a mile from his cabin.

After Abraham's death, the two brothers married and Tom Lincoln left Washington county in search of new opportunities, returning now and then to court Nancy Hanks with whom he had been acquainted in childhood.

## Wins Nancy Hanks.

Nancy Hanks, a daughter of James and Lucy Shipley Hanks, upon the death of her father and the remarrying of her mother, came to the Big Bend country to live with her uncle, Richard Berry, Sr. At the Berry home she met Thomas Lincoln about the year 1790. Then her uncle and aunt died and Nancy went to the Francis Berry home to live and it was there that Thomas Lincoln came on June 9, 1806 to claim her for his bride.

On June 10, 1806, Thomas Lincoln, with Richard Berry, Jr., as his security, executed bond in the office of John Reed, clerk of the County Court of Washington county in Springfield and secured a license to wed Nancy Hanks. On the same day he secured a promise from the Rev. Jesse Head to be present at the Francis Berry home at high noon on June 12 to perform the wedding ceremony.

## Begin Housekeeping.

The ceremony was carried out and after the wedding and customary infare, they commenced housekeeping in a little cabin belonging to Richard Berry, Jr.

This far, the story is not disputed. But beyond this point it is.

For Washington county claims that the cabin now preserved at Hodgenville is this very Richard Berry cabin and that its original location was in Washington county and it was moved to Hardin county. They back the story by saying that this is the testimony of numerous prominent residents of Washington county long since dead.

Three children were born to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks while they lived in this cabin in Washington county, according to the story handed down from William Hardesty, who as a boy attended the wedding of Lincoln's parents, and Squire R. M. Thompson whose mother was a cousin Nancy Hanks. The first child, story goes, was a girl named Nancy who lived but a few months. The second was Sarah and the third—Abraham Lincoln.

After Lincoln was born, Was

ton county claims that Thomas left his family in care of his Washington county neighbors while he went to build a home in Hardin county. After an absence of several months he returned and took his family to his new home.

But Washington county has one barrier it cannot overcome in proving its story. Lincoln himself declared he was born in Hardin county and that is what America believes.



# *Scenes From Lincoln Homestead Park Celebration on June 12, 1935*

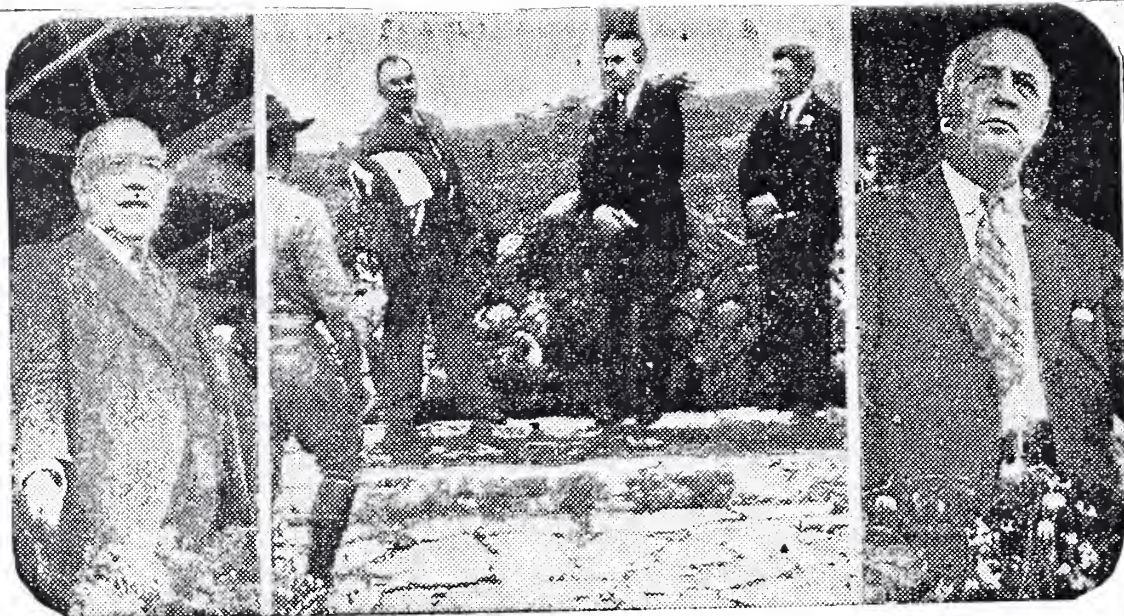


Wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks is reenacted at Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th. The bride and groom face the minister. This photo taken by C. J. Betz, staff photographer for The Courier-Journal, was sent over the world by means of that paper's newly installed wire-photo service.



Supported by their Maids of Honor, Miss Indiana, Miss Kentucky and Miss Illinois face the Nancy Hanks Legend Scroll as the Benediction of God is invoked by the Rev. O. W. Baylor.





Exercises at Lincoln Homestead Park on June 12th got underway when Judge J. J. Kavanaugh, Louisville, presented Old Glory to Col. John Polin. The flag was the gift of The Lincoln Protective Club, of Kentucky, to the Washington County Historical Society. Governor Ruby Laffoon (Left) headed the group of speakers at the dedication of the Nancy Hanks Memorial and Ex-Gov. Edwin P. Morrow (Right) was photographed making what proved to be his last public address.



Paul M. Angle, Springfield, Ill., representing Gov. Henry Horner, and Curtis G. Shake, Vincennes, Ind., representing Governor Paul V. McNutt.

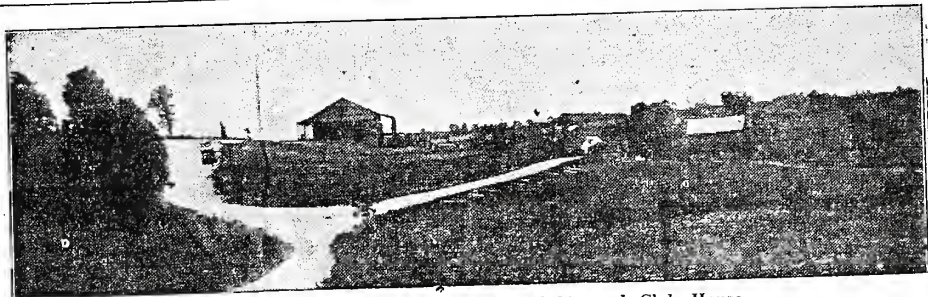
VOLUME XXXII

SPRINGFIELD, KY., THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1936

# STATE ACCEPTS LINCOLN HOMESTEAD PARK

**HISTORIC PLACE  
IN THIS COUNTY  
NEWEST SHRINE**

Boundary Deeded to Commonwealth  
By Washington County Historical  
Society Saturday. \$12,000  
For Improvement.



View of Lincoln Homestead Park Showing Cabin and Club House



# SPRINGFIELD SUN

Issued Every Thursday



H. L. SMITH and J. S. MORAN  
Editors and Publishers

Entered at the postoffice at Springfield, Ky., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

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Eight Months..... 1.00  
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One Year.....\$2.00  
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All Subscriptions Payable in Advance

Member Kentucky Press Association

## DREAM MATERIALIZES

Washington County now has a State Shrine, dedicated to the memory of the Lincoln family. It is located in the heart of the Original Lincoln Territory, where, in 1782, the forebears of the immortal Abe Lincoln settled, and where, years later, Nancy Hanks was courted and married by Thomas Lincoln. The old Berry home, in which Nancy Hanks lived, is still standing, as is the home of Mordecai Lincoln, each near the new Lincoln Shrine.

For many years Washington Countians dreamed of a day when the Lincoln Territory would be rightfully recognized along with other important Lincoln Shrines, and that dream has at last materialized, in part. The Washington County Historical Society donated the site to the State Saturday, title being accepted on behalf of the Commonwealth by Governor A. B. Chandler, Attorney General B. M. Vincent and Finance Commissioner J. Dan Talbott.

Acceptance by the State and future development of this important link in historic spots on U. S. Highways 68 and 150 should mean much to Washington County. The extent to which it is developed and the prominence it is to acquire depend, greatly, on the attitude of our own citizens. There must be no let-up in our efforts to make of this rich heritage a show place of the county. Rich in historic value, nestled amid scenes connected with the original Lincoln families, there is no reason why this site should not come to be recognized for its real worth as a memorial to the outstanding family of the Nation's history.

a fight that has been incessant over a long period. Had it not been for the indomitable spirit, the dauntless courage, characteristic of the pioneers of this historic old county, it is possible the fact the Original Lincoln Country of Kentucky lies within our borders may have been forgotten, and may never have been opened up to the thousands of tourists who are longing for an opportunity to visit this locality when properly developed.

Interest here is aroused as never before. The entire population has at last realized the value of our Lincoln Territory and it seems the future holds great things for the county that has for so long neglected its duty and overlooked its opportunities.

\* This project, though resting forgotten, apparently, in the minds of our own citizens, had its inception in the mind of Orval W. Baylor, then a stranger in our midst. He realized the vast possibilities of this site if properly developed and publicized, and it is to the relentless fight he made, together with a comparatively small group of citizens of this city and county, credit must be given for its development and final acceptance by the State of Kentucky.

Much credit also must be given the progressive business men and patriotic individuals of this city, who furnished the money which made it possible for the Historical Society to acquire the necessary acreage. Quick to sense the value of such a shrine within the confines of our own county, and anxious to do their part as public-spirited citizens toward the advancement of this project, many contributed freely and liberally. Congratulations also are due the few who refused to give up the fight for recognition of the Lincoln Homestead Park,

## IMPORTANT TO COMMUNITY

The Washington County Historical Society on Saturday, June 20, 1936, donated to the State of Kentucky Lincoln Homestead Park in the Original Lincoln Territory of Washington County, the boundary being accepted for the Commonwealth by Governor A. B. Chandler, Attorney General B. B. Vincent and Finance Commissioner J. Dan Talbott, deed to the boundary having been presented by County Attorney Joseph Polin, H. B. Gregory and Raymond Thompson, representing the society.

Acceptance by the State of this newest Lincoln Shrine adds another important link in the chain of historic spots on U. S. Highways 68 and 150 and, incidentally, brings to Washington County recognition long over due as the original Kentucky home of the Lincoln family from which came the immortal Abe Lincoln, martyred President of the United States. It also marked the close of the first chapter of a long and persistent fight waged by O. W. Baylor and a small group of enthusiastic citizens of this city and county to acquire sufficient acreage for the establishment of such a shrine.

The Washington County Historical Society acquired a small acreage in this section a few years ago and erected thereon a club house and replica of the old Lincoln home, the enclosure being fenced in, trees set, flowers planted and, later, a memorial marker to the honor of Nancy Hanks, mother of the immortal Abe.

On June 12, 1934, this site was dedicated to the memory of the Lincolns as the Lincoln Homestead Park. Hon. A. O. Stanley delivered the dedicatory address on that occasion, a crowd of some two thousand persons attending the ceremony. The following year, June 12, 1935, a tri-state observance of the one hundred and twenty-ninth anniversary of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks was held at the park, Illinois and Indiana joining Kentucky in this celebration. It was on this occasion the memorial to Nancy Hanks was dedicated. Speakers on that eventful day were Governor Ruby Laffoon of Kentucky, Curtis Shake, Vincennes, Ind., Paul Angle, Springfield, Ill., and the late lamented Edwin P. Morrow, this being the last public address delivered by Mr. Morrow before his sudden death three days later.

Washington County's, Kentucky's, and the Nation's newest Lincoln Shrine is not an unknown spot. It has been widely publicized during the past several years, and has been visited by Lincoln admirers from many States in the Union. Judge Bull of California, known throughout the world as Abe Lincoln's double, visited this shrine and posed on the steps of the old Lincoln cabin for a picture he treasures most highly. Other notables, including representatives of the Governors of Illinois and Indiana, as well as many prominent Kentuckians, also have visited this memorial site.

But one thing is lacking to bring more tourists this summer to our newest Lincoln Shrine—good roads. These we will have, in due season. Improvements also are being planned, a W.P.A. grant of \$12,000 having been promised for the erection of a keeper's home, landscaping, fencing, etc.

Purchase of the additional acreage necessary to comply with requirements for the establishment and improvement of the site was made possible by liberal donations by Springfield's business men and a number of private citizens interested in the project, which, it is believed, will become one of the most frequented of all Lincoln Shrines when properly beautified and made easily accessible by high type roads.



# FERA OFFICIALS WILL VISIT PARK IN THIS COUNTY

Committee Here Given Assurance The  
Lincoln Project Will Be Given  
Due Consideration; Woods to  
Address Society.

## LARGE ASSEMBLY URGED

*Springfield June 27, 1935*

Inspection of Lincoln Homestead Park by officials of the F.E.R.A. will take place July 9th, according to word received Wednesday by O. W. Baylor, President of the Washington County Historical Society. The inspection will be made with the view to mapping out future work.

Judge Alonzo F. Woods, Federal Coordinator for Kentucky, will head the inspection group. He will also remain in Springfield for the meeting of the historical society which is scheduled for the night of July 9th and be the principle speaker on the program.

Mr. Baylor, G. C. Wharton and J. F. Pettus were in Louisville Wednesday where they conferred with State and National officials of the F.E.R.A. relative to work at Lincoln Homestead Park. They received assurance that every possible consideration would be given the park project and it is expected that following the inspection on July 9th a comprehensive program will be mapped out.

Judge Wood, a native of Hopkinsville, is one of the outstanding men in the President's Work Program. He is much in demand as a speaker and it is hoped that he will be greeted by a large assembly when he comes to Springfield to address the historical meeting. He will be the principle speaker at the Fourth of July festivities at Old Kentucky Home on next Thursday.

4  
JOE POLIN

JOHN A. POLIN

**POLIN & POLIN**  
ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW  
SPRINGFIELD, KY.

September 2, 1935.

Dr. Louis A. Warren,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Dr. Wayne:

In order to settle the estate of our father, his heirs will on Wednesday, September 25th, 1935 offer for sale the farms located in the Lincoln country.

We do not know just what local interest there will be so far as regards Lincoln history, and do not wish to capitalize upon this idea. However, in order that an opportunity may be offered to anyone interested, we are offering the Berry Farm in two separate tracts. A tract containing the old Berry homestead in which Nancy Hanks made her early home will be offered with approximately twenty-five acres of land upon which it is located.

If you are interested yourself, or know of anyone who would be interested in this from a historical standpoint, please advise us.

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joseph Polin". The signature is fluid and extends across the width of the text area.

Joseph Polin.

JoP:MF



September 4, 1935

Mr. Joseph Polin  
Springfield, Kentucky

My dear Mr. Polin:

I regret very much to hear that the Berry farm is to pass out of your hands but I do not know of any one here who would be interested in its acquisition.

It seems too bad that it cannot be preserved and especially the old cabin which stands thereon. With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

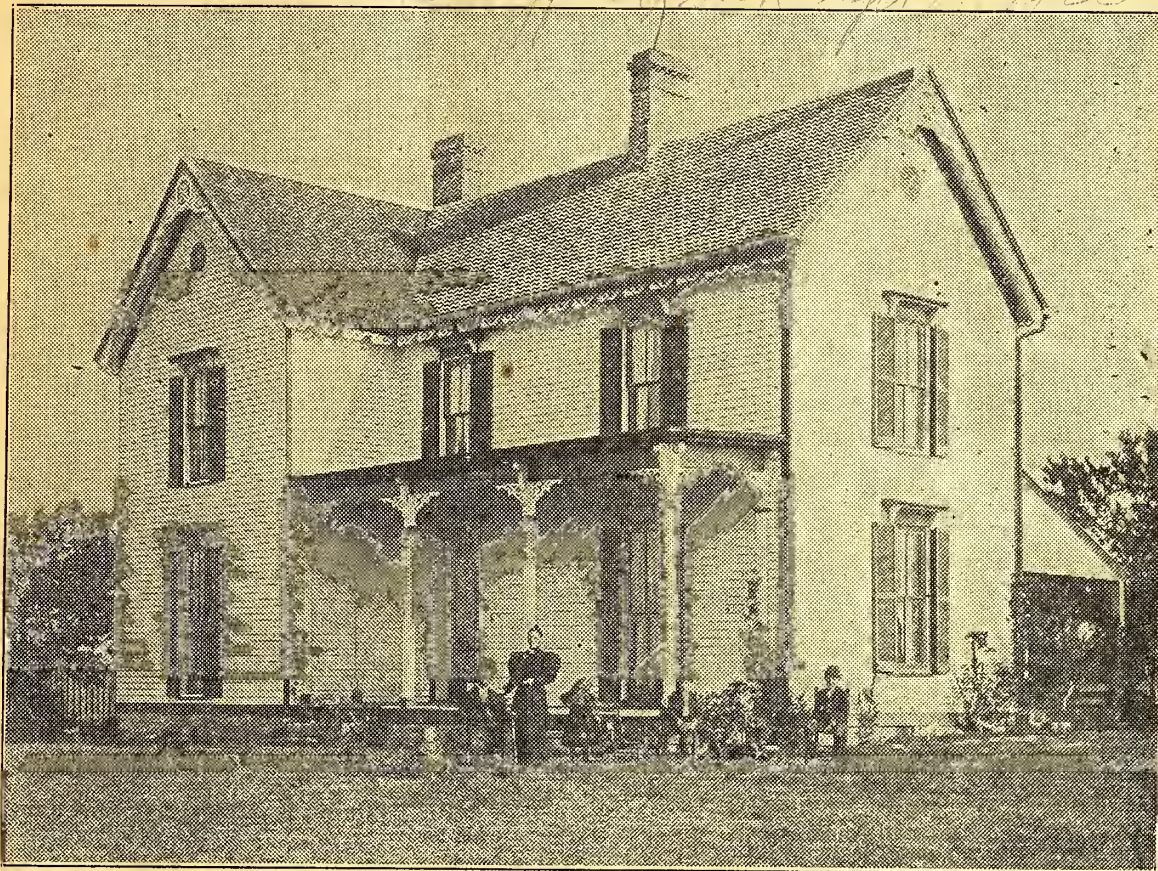
LAW:LH

Director



# This Fine Home At Public Auction

*Springfield, Tenn Sept 12 1935*



In order to settle the estate of the late J. O. Polin, deceased, the heirs will offer for sale on the premises, seven miles North of Springfield, Ky., at the intersection of the Springfield & Polin turnpike and the Beechland and Valley Hill turnpike, on

## Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1935

Beginning at 1:00 O'Clock, P. M.

the following described tracts of land and personal property:

### FARM No. 1

The Home Tract, Containing 103 Acres, 2 Roods and 31 Poles



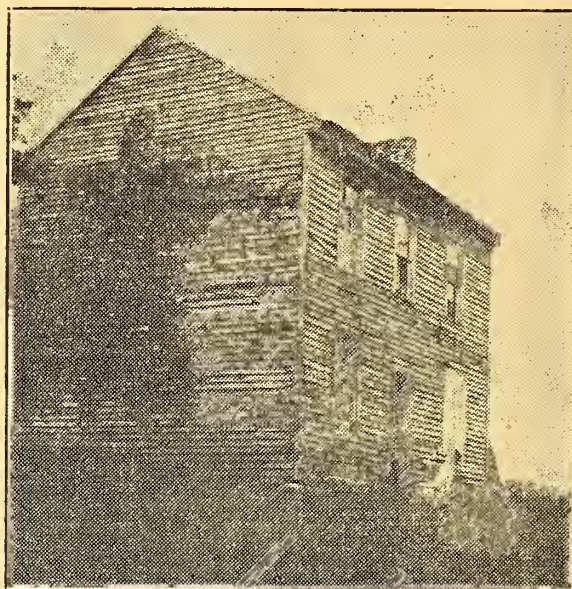
This farm lies on the West side of the Springfield and Walton Lick turnpike and is bounded by the waters of the Little Beech Fork and is well improved and well watered. It has on it a two-story frame dwelling containing eight rooms, two halls, back porch and a front veranda. The house is constructed of the very best material and is in a splendid state of preservation. It also has on it good stock and tobacco barns and other necessary outbuildings. All of this land is especially adapted to the cultivation of tobacco.

# Farm No. 2

The Old Berry Homestead,

Containing Approximately

# 115 Acres



This farm has a frontage upon the Beechland and Valley Hill turnpike and also upon the Springfield and Polin turnpike and lies across the road from Farm No. 1. It is also bordered by the Frankfort Dirt Road and the waters of Little Beech Fork. It is well watered and all of the land is very fertile and adapted to the growing of all kinds of crops. This farm has on it two dwelling houses, one of which is the old Berry homestead. It also has on it a good stock and tobacco barn.

Farm No. 2 contains approximately 115 acres and will be offered separately in two tracts and then as a whole as follows: Tract No. 1 containing approximately 90 acres having a frontage upon the turnpike aforesaid and which tract has on it a residence together with a barn and other necessary outbuildings located upon the turnpike. The other tract containing approximately 25 acres contains the old Berry homestead property which was formerly the home of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Both these farms are located in what is known as the Original Lincoln Country of Washington County, which is one of the best farming sections in the county, and the land has been well cared for for many years.

## PERSONAL PROPERTY:

At the same time and place there will be sold a small amount of personal property. Cattle: Four Milk Cows, two 2-year-old Heifers, two suckling Steer Calves, one Heifer, four Sows and Pigs, one Male Hog, one Mare. Also farming Tools and Implements.

## TERMS OF THE SALE:

LAND—The land will be sold on one-third cash January 1, 1936, the remainder to be paid in four equal installments on or before one, two, three and four years after date, each note bearing 6% interest from date of sale with precipitation clause.

PERSONALTY—All sums of \$10.00 and under, cash. Over that amount, on a credit of three months from date of sale, the purchaser executing a good bankable note bearing 6% interest from date of sale.

# The Polin Heirs

COL. S. M. CAMPBELL and COL. EVERETT MUDD, Auctioneers.

**POLIN FARM TO BE SOLD  
AT AUCTION SEPTEMBER 25**

*Sept 5 - 1935*  
The heirs of the late J. O. Polin will sell the farm lands located near Litsey, this county, at public auction on Wednesday, September 25, as announced in an advertisement elsewhere in this issue of The Sun.

The home tract, containing 103 acres, is on the West side of the Walton Lick turnpike, is well improved, having a nice residence and all necessary outbuildings, and is especially adapted to the production of burley tobacco.

Tract No. 2, known as the Old Berry Homestead, is on the opposite side of the highway, this tract has on it 2 residences, one of which is the old Berry Home, in which Tom Lincoln courted Nancy Hanks. This tract of land is adapted to the growth of all kinds of crops and is in one of the best farming sections of the county.

At the same time a lot of personal property also will be sold. See the advertisement for full particulars.



# MEN and MATTERS

BY O. W. BAYLOR

## OUR ENGLISH BIBLE - - -

1535-1935. Four hundred years of the printed English Bible, and still it is more widely sold and read than any other book. It is the Book of books in more ways than one. It is a library of poetry, essays, prayers, sermons, proverbs, parables, history and biography, in one volume.

It was in 1535, the "pages of power" wrought by the English translator, Myles Coverdale, were made accessible to the man in shop or field and thus what had been the property of a few men became in a day the common treasure of the English-speaking people.

Many fail to realize the Bible's contribution to our civilization. Not alone directly but indirectly, has this contribution been made. Through the arts and sciences, in man's dealings with man, in government, in newspapers, magazines and books, we receive this indirect contribution.

In the common speech of everyday life, the influence of the Bible is surprising. A few of the great many Biblical expressions used on occasion by every one of us, are: "The apple of his eye," "the salt of the earth," "the powers that be," "labor of love," "handwriting on the wall," "a mess of pottage," "the widow's mite," "we are the people," "the fat of the land," "the laborer is worthy of his hire," "white sepulchres," "all things to all men."

Yes, the Bible is THE Book. We have had it printed in the English language for 400 years, but centuries before English was a language, the Bible was begun. It is the work of historians, statesmen, poets, kings. Defended by brave men, copied by hand, letter for letter, by patient scholars, translated into hundreds of languages by learned men, it has so inspired consecrated men as to cause them to spend all they had; forsake home and country—Yes, even die in flames at the stake.

One writer has said: "Without the Bible it is impossible to understand the literature of the English language from Chaucer to our own day." In our humble judgment it might be said: "Without the Bible it is impossible to rightly understand anything that is worthwhile or get out of this life all that God intends man shall get."

:: :: ::

## WHAT OTHERS THINK - - -

About ten days ago, a party of four from the great State of Illinois, came to Washington County in quest of Lincolniana and to see the Original Lincoln Country. In the party was Mrs. Henry E. Pond, Historian of Cabin Furnishings, New Salem State Park, near Petersburg, Ill. After returning to Illinois, Mrs. Pond wrote me and among other things she says: "Would you be interested to know our reaction to some of the Lincoln shrines, on our first trip to the Original Lincoln Country?"

"We wonder if your community realizes the value of the Lincoln Country. I want to tell you how splendid it was to us. It was the real thrill, and the real highlight of the trip to me. All my life I had assumed, of course, the visit to the birthplace at Hodgenville, would be almost a spiritual experience. That it would be to me what Mecca is to the Mohammedan. It may be my fault and my lack. But—I felt a terrible flatness. It seemed so artificial. In Washington County, as at the grave of Nancy Hanks in Indiana, we found beauty, sympathy and taste."

The reaction of Mrs. Pond to the Original Lincoln Country of Washington County is noteworthy. She has been and now is, intimately associated with the restoration of Old New Salem, the pioneer village on the Sangamon River in Illinois, that gave to the world, Abraham Lincoln. She has seen that place change within the last few years from a deserted Ghost Village to a shrine of international repute and interest. She knows full well the possibilities of any site with Lincoln connections. She realizes what many people here in Washington County do not—the value of the Original Lincoln Country. "More important than anything else you have," she told us while here. We tried to tell her of the old Courthouse, of St. Rose's, and of St. Catharine's. "Yes, yes, these are all wonderful," she said, "but only of limited interest. The whole world is interested in Lincoln and a great multitude of the people of the world will see the shrines associated with Lincoln, sooner or later."

We have seen restored New Salem and we know what has been done there. We know, too, that it rests on a foundation of Lincoln lore not near so fascinating as that found right here in Washington County. They only had one Lincoln at New Salem. Washington County had several. The Lincoln that Old New Salem got, and whom restored New Salem honors, was the shoot of the loins of Washington County, Kentucky, stock. Washington County knew Abraham Lincoln approximately thirty years and his pioneer forbears near a half century before Honest Abe set foot in the little log village of New Salem. Surely, if Illinois has made New

Salem State Park a place of interest second only to the grave of Lincoln, at Springfield, Washington County can make her Original Lincoln Country, not second, but first, in the State of Kentucky.

At New Salem State Park they capitalize on Abraham Lincoln, Ann Rutledge, his early sweetheart, Denton Offut, his first employer, William Berry, his intemperate partner, Samuel Hill, his business rival, etc., etc. But what are these in comparison to all that awaits us here? Go over the list and realize how much we have: The original Kentucky settlement site; the site of the massacre and the grave of Abraham Lincoln, Sr.; the homes of Mordecai and Josiah Lincoln, uncles of the President; the home of Richard Berry, Sr., where Nancy Hanks lived during her childhood; the home of Francis Berry, where she was wooed by Thomas Lincoln and where she became his wife; the site of the cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks commenced housekeeping and where many believe their illustrious son was born; the site of the old Berry woodworking and blacksmith shop, where Thomas Lincoln learned his trade; the little river hamlet of Beechland, trading center of the Lincolns and their neighbors in pioneer days; the old mill, where they got their grain ground; etc., etc.

Washington County has been backward in the matter of developing her Original Lincoln Country. She has let thousands of dollars in the purses of a great host of tourists, cross her border and pass on unspent within her domain, and all because she couldn't or wouldn't see that her biggest commercial asset is her Lincoln Country. If every merchant in Springfield would stand in front of his establishment and shout for a bigger and better Lincoln Homestead Park, with improved highways connecting it with the main-travelled thoroughfares, it would be the best business-getter that could be used in Springfield. It would be low-cost advertising with unending returns.

## J. O. POLIN FARM SOLD WEDNESDAY

Home Tract, Containing 103 Acres,  
Purchased By Colie Hardin At  
\$56.75; Several Other Farms  
To Sell.

*Spuyten* ~~Sept~~ 26 - 35

The sale of the Polin heirs was held Wednesday of this week on the premises near Litsey, Col. S. M. Campbell and Col. Everett Mudd being the auctioneers.

The home tract, containing 103 acres and the residence of the late J. O. Polin, was purchased by Colie Hardin at \$56.75 per acre. Bidding on this tract was spirited.

The Berry Tract, containing 115 acres, on which is located the old Berry homestead, in which Nancy Hanks Lincoln lived for a time, was purchased by the heirs.

Wharton Bros. are holding their farm sale this afternoon. This farm, which contains 186 acres, is located Northeast of this city in a splendid farming section and should command a good price.

On Saturday morning of this week, September 28, T. E. Medley will sell his 169-acre farm, a lot of farming implements, livestock, etc., at his home on the old Elizabethtown Road, near Burke's Springs, and on the same afternoon the Scruggs heirs will sell their 116 acre farm near Willisburg.

On Tuesday of next week the Nelson Reed heirs will sell the old Walter Williams farm on Willisburg Road at public auction and on Saturday of next week Luther Lewis will sell his farm near Willisburg. Mr. Coyle will sell his residence property at Mackville on October 5.



### GREAT THINGS COMING

It seems, from reports from authoritative sources, that Washington County is at last to receive the recognition due her as the original home of the Lincoln Family, and that historic spots, whose history is connected with the family of the immortal Abe Lincoln, will be marked and preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.

It has been a long, hard fight to secure this recognition. Washington Countians waited too long, it seemed, to push her claims but vigilance on the part of a few enthusiasts, plus an unlimited amount of energy, of time and vigorous effort, bore fruit. Now, it seems, Washington County's historic spots will form one of the most interesting links in the chain of similar spots associated with the great Emancipator.

Great things are coming our way, if we go out to meet them. No little effort will be required, and considerable expense will necessarily have to be met, but future prospects are too great to permit a lessening of our efforts to preserve for posterity the rich historic scenes about us.

Public cooperation will be necessary, and it should be forthcoming without reserve. Washington Countians have always rallied when emergencies arise and their response has been fine in every noble cause. That efforts to secure, preserve and pub-

licize all historic Lincoln sites in our county will be crowned with success no one doubts. If all our citizens do their bit, success is assured.

*Spuffel Jan Oct 22 1944*

# TOURISTS

## Kentucky State Parks Commission Will Make Washington County's Original Lincoln Country Pay.

### WILL ACQUIRE OLD BERRY HOUSE

### And Make It Another Link In Chain of State's Interesting Chain of Lincoln Lore

(By O. W. Baylor)

Frankfort, Ky., Oct. 21—(Special to The Sun)—Washington Countians who have been hoping and praying that the Original Lincoln Country of Washington County might some day become a sector of major attraction, are about to see the realization of their hopes. Many who have been saying that the Lincoln Homestead Park project is dead, are soon to find that it is far from that.

The Kentucky State Parks Commission is going to make the Lincoln Homestead Country of Washington County one of the major links in the chain of State Parks and already plans are on foot to that end. Not only will the twenty-two acre tract on Lincoln's Run, known as Lincoln Homestead Park, be improved and maintained but the parks department has other plans of considerable magnitude as well.

As a starter for the development of the Washington County Lincoln Homestead Country, Bailey Wootton, Director of the Division of State Parks, has appointed an advisory board who will work with the State Park officials in planning and carrying forward the work during the coming months. Members of this board as named by Mr. Wootton last Friday are John Polin, Chairman, Gabe Wharton, vice-chairman, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, secretary, and J. F. Pettus, J. B. Williams, O. W. Baylor, Mrs. Ruel Foster and Mrs. C. F. Bosley, members. Mr. Baylor will serve as contact man for the board in Frankfort and work with Mr. Wootton in handling details incident to the development.

The State Parks Commission has an allotment of approximately \$15,000 from the WPA to be used in developing the Lincoln Homestead Country. This money has been set aside and it will not be used for any other purpose. Commencement of work will depend upon available manpower in the county and it now seems that that will not be long delayed. General Wootton wants the Lincoln Homestead Country ready for tourists during the season of 1937 and that means that work must start soon.

In addition to development of the tract of 22 acres known as Lincoln Homestead Park, the State Park Director proposes to acquire approximately 10 acres of land including that on which the old Francis Berry house and kitchen stand, facing the Old Frankfort Road and overlooking the Ryan Bottom with the Little Beech Fork in the distance. This house will be restored to its original state, to look as near like it did when Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln, lived there with her cousin, Francis Berry and his family, from 1804 to 1806 when she was wedded to Thomas Lincoln. The State Parks Director proposes to purchase the property. When converted into a State Shrine it will have a broad drive

leading up to the house from the Old Frankfort Road and ample parking space around the house.

The State Parks Commission also proposes to mark with bronze tablets all of the sites in the Lincoln Homestead Country. The road leading out from the Court House to Lincoln Homestead Park will be the thoroughfare over which tourists and visitors to the Lincoln Country will be directed. The office of the Clerk of Washington County Court where the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and the Minister's return of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks are kept, will be the starting point for visits to the Lincoln Country.

Bronze Tablet No. 1 will be at the Clerk's Office and the inscription will identify that place as the repository of the priceless Lincoln Marriage records. Tablet No. 2 will be at the corner of Main Cross and High Streets for it was on the property now owned by Mrs. W. C. McChord and Dr. John Overall that the Rev. Jesse Head's home and carpenter shop stood in 1806 when he was engaged to officiate at the Lincoln Wedding.

Bronze Tablet No. 3 will be at the site where Mordecai Lincoln, brother of Thomas and uncle of President Lincoln lived. The next point of interest will be the Lincoln Homestead cabin, the Nancy Hanks Memorial Monument and the massacre site on Lincoln's Run where Abraham Lincoln, Sr., was slain by an Indian in 1788. There will be numerous markers within the Homestead Park area.

From the Homestead Cabin visitors will be directed to the old burying ground on the Beech Fork where tradition says the massacred Abraham Lincoln was buried. There too, may be seen the ruins of the old meeting house where the Lincolns and Berrys and others listened to such pioneer preachers as Jesse Head and John Pirtle. Tablet No. 5 will be at this site.

Tablet No. 6 will be at the Richard Berry, Sr., homesite, now the home of Mr. Robert Moran. There Nancy Hanks was raised by her uncle and aunt and there she lived until 1804 when she went to live with her cousin, Francis Berry. From thence the trail will lead on to the site of the Berry woodworking and blacksmith shop at the forks of the road and on to the site from whence the little cabin now at Harrodsburg, the same in which Thomas Lincoln and his bride began housekeeping in 1806, was taken.

Another tablet will be placed at the house at the ford. It was the home of Richard Berry, Jr., cousin and guardian of Nancy Hanks. The place is now owned by Mr. J. I. Martin. The old mill at Poortown will also have a marker and if plans now on foot are carried through, that old landmark will be added to the State Parks Commission's holdings in the Washington County Lincoln Country.

Over the old log road from the mill the trail will lead to the Francis Berry house and returning from that site visitors will be directed over the half-mile stretch of the Old Frankfort Road known as "Rocky Hill" to return to the Homestead Cabin.



# OLD TAX BOOKS PRESENTED TO LOCAL SOCIETY

Washington County Historical Society  
Received Books The Past Week  
From Mr. R. L. Bricken  
Of Brumfield.

## LINCOLN LAND IS LISTED

The archives of the Washington County Historical Society were enriched during the past week by the addition of two old tax books of Washington County for the years 1797 and 1799. The books were presented by Mr. R. L. Bricken, of Brumfield, Ky.

Mr. Bricken in delivering the old books to O. W. Baylor, president of the society, stated that they had been kept among some old papers that had descended to him from his father. The books originally belonged to Richard Beall who was an ancestor of Mr. Bricken's. They will be a valuable addition to the society's collection as they contain the names of all of the taxable residents of Washington County in the years for which they were compiled. The name of Thomas Lincoln, father of President Lincoln, appears on the list for 1799. Mordecai Lincoln's name is on both lists.

Richard Beall was the third sheriff of Washington County. He was appointed to that office by the Governor of Kentucky when his predecessor was removed for having absconded. He was a son of Richard Beall, Sr., who served in the Revolution and was in command at Fort Redstone in 1788. He married Elinor Magruder of Columbus County, Georgia, in 1780 by whom he had several children including a daughter, Nancy Beall.

Besides being sheriff of Washington County, Richard Beall was prominent in business and politics. He was assessor in 1828 when he was past 80 years of age, going on horseback from house to house to gather the statistics. He died in 1839, aged 93, and was buried in the Beall burying ground about midway between Springfield and Lebanon.

Nancy Beall, daughter of Richard, married Robert Cunningham in 1797. They were the great-grandparents of Mr. Bricken, donor of the old tax books. Robert Cunningham was descendant from John Cunningham of Scotland and Maryland. John had taken an active part in the revolution in Great Britain which had for its object the placing of the House of Stuart on the throne. He was forced to flee to America and settled in Maryland. His grandson, John Cun-

ningham, born in 1726, moved to Kentucky in 1780 after serving as a captain in the Pennsylvania line during the American Revolution. Robert Cunningham was the youngest son of John, the Kentucky emigrant. He married Nancy Beall and they had Isabella Cunningham who married Marcus Graham whose daughter, Ann Jane, married A. W. Bricken.

On the tax roll for 1797, Mordecai Lincoln was listed for 100 acres on the Beech Fork in Washington County, 100 acres on the Kentucky River in Lincoln County, 1134½ acres west of Green River supposedly in Hardin County, 800 acres on Green River in Mercer County, and 1000 acres on the Kentucky River in Lincoln County.

## HISTORY IN OLD TOWN RECORDS

Papers Relating to The Town of  
Springfield 100 Years Ago.

The Trustees of the town of Springfield will please to make a deed to that part of a lott NO 23 that belongs to the house between the house of James Hughes and that of Isaac Pearce to Jonathan Payne and much oblige there Humble Sarvant Wilm Allen. March 6th 1800. Teste Will Pile. (Reverse) The Trustees are hereby authorized to make a deed to Lewis Quinsby for the part lott within mentioned. Jany 1st 1803. Jonathan payne.

I have sold the lott on the Main Street in the Town of Springfield adjoining Robertsons old Shop above to Arthur E. Gibbens. The Trustees of the Town will therefore be kind enough to make a title to him for the same & oblige Matthew Walton. 25th Feby. 1803. Test Elias Davison.

I have this day sold to Doctor Barbour & am to give immediate possession the House & lott in the Town of Springfield lying between Jeffries & Murrey which is Genly known by Quigleys, & am to direct the trustees of said Town to make a title when demanded. As witness my hand this 16th day of November 1803. Matthew Walton. Test John Barlow. (Reverse) For & in consideration of one hundred pounds I do hereby assign the within to Paul J. Booker & am to give him possession of the within named house & lott together with its appurtenances on or before the 15th of November next as witness my hand & seal this the 2d of may 1812. Philip Barbour (Seal). (Also) The Trustees of the Town of Springfield will be kind enough to make a deed for the within mentioned lott to P. J. Booker & oblige Matthew Walton 23d May 1812. (Also) The Trustees will make the deed to Ignatius Wathen. P. J. Booker.

The Trustees of the town of Springfield is directed and fully authorized to make a Deed to Emmerly Gwin for the lott NO—that Robertsons Shop is on and oblige your friend Matthew Walton. 2nd March 1801.

Gentlemen: Please to make a Title to John Hurst to the lott his House stands on & to the one opposite it & oblige yours with Respect Matthew Walton. 21 Sept 1802. The Trustees of the Town of Springfield. (Reverse) The Trustees of the Town of Springfield will make a deed to James Hughes for the lott within mentioned when this order was given being NO 132 the same which I then lived on. September 15th 1819 John Hurst. N.B. The same now occupied by Will G. Steele.

Gentlemen Trustees of the Town of Springfield, Washington county please to make a deed to Mr. John Jeffries for the lott of ground where on he has built it being a corner lott and I think NO 51 there was an order entered

on the old Record for the title of the same to me and this order shall be a good receipt for the same and much oblige Will Pile March 7th 1804.

To P. Morgan, Pay Captn Robertson Esq. Trustee of Springfield four dollars for hooping, swiveling & handling with Iron the well bucket. E. B. Gaither. (No date)

I am fully satisfied for the lott on which Mr Stephen Shenalt now lives in the Town of Springfield NO 33. The Trustees are therefore requested to make a title accordingly to said Shenalt or who he may direct & oblige, Matthew Walton. Aug. 1th 1805.. The lott was sold originally to Mr. Hughes and from him to Sallemon. W

Received of Wm. H. Hays full satisfaction for all the property which we heald in Springfield in partnership consisting of Lots No. 71, 72 and 11. as witness my hand and Seal this 5th day of March 1805.. Austin Thomson (Seal). Teste George C. Harbison..

Gentleman: Mr. Strait has satisfied me for four lots in the Town of Spgfl. He writes me they are No. 53 & 54.48 & 49. I cannot say myself with certainty what the numbers are as I am away from home, but he has satisfied me for 4 lotts & which I have heretofore gave him two orders for, The 2d on account of the first being lost. I do not have objection to the Trustees of the Town making a title to him or any person he may direct to the lotts, as they are the lotts his house stands on two on each side of the street. The Order or deed ought to refer to my two orders heretofore given. I am yrs with Respt. Matthew Walton. Jun 4th 1805. Trustees of the Town of Springfield.

The trustees of the Town of Springfield will please to make a Deed to E. B. Gaither to the lot No.. Blank But known by the name of Gibbings Shop Lot and oblige your humble Sarvant, A. E. Gibbins. the 7th of December, 1807. Test Henry L. Mudd.

Trustees of Town of Springfield to John Wade Dr.. Furnishing plank and scantland and mending of the Market house 7.00 John Wade.

The Trustees of the Town of Springfield will be kind enough to make deed to Mr. Joseph Jeffs to the lotts in the Town of Springfield of the Following Numbers, Towit, No 79, 83, 84 & 85. & oblige yours with Respect. Matthew Walton 17th June 1808. Test William Head. Jno. P. Hundley.

The Trustees of the Town of Springfield will please to make Richard Chandler a Deed to the two lots between Levi J. Thurmans and John Jeffries I think they are numbered four and five. Levi J. Thurman has satisfied me for the same as witness my hand and seal this 9th day of November 1809. Elizabeth Grundy. Test S. Grundy, Leonard Hamilton. (Reverse) September the 25th 1810 this day for value received I assign the within order to Jacob Harlow. Richard Chandler. Test John Tomson. (Also) Sept the 28th 1812 this day for value recd I assign the within order to David Rodman. Jacob Barlow Test Wm. Thomass. (Also) Feby the 21st 1814 for value recd I assign one of the within lots Number four to Dan Mock. David Rodman. Test Patrick Morgan.

Trustees to John Calhoun Dr. To Cleaning well in 1810 three times, \$2.00. The above is entered on Record. Test E. Davison.

The Trustees Dr.. to William H. Hays 1809 to Cleaning Well three Times \$4 To giting new hand pole \$2 Total \$6.

Springfield Sct. Trustees met July the 3rd 1810. Ordered that Joseph Kibby be allowed the sum of four pounds sixteen shillings for repairs done to the public Spring as per acct filed and which is ordered to be certified to George Wilson the Treasurer of this Board for payment. A Copy Teste. R. Lancaster C.B.T.S.

Springfield Sct. Trustees met July the 3rd 1810. Ordered that Wm. H. Hays be allowed the sum of one pound eleven shillings & ten pence for repairing the public well as per acct filed, which is ordered to be certified to George Wilson the Treasurer to this Board for payment. A Copy Teste R. Lancaster C. B. T. S.

Springfield Sct. Trustees met July 3rd 1810. For reasons appearing & C. it is Ordered George McKay be allowed the sum of 2 pounds eleven shillings for repairs done to the public well, as per acct filed.

caster clk B.T.S. (Reverse) Amt of Allowance \$8.50 less Taxes for 1808, & 1810, \$3.60. Mr. Wilson please to pay the amount of Three Dollars seventy six & a half cents to George McKay. E. Davison. William H. Hays.

Gentlemen: Mr. Brown has my note for a lott No 27 in the Town of Springfield. I have no doubt but the deed has been made for the lott & this note ought to have been taken in. I find in my books it appears that the lott was sold to Joseph Covenhaven & by him sold to Edwd Bird & from Bird to Mr. Montgomery. I suppose the deed must be made to one of them or perhaps to Easterday & the note not taken in. I wish youd examine and see how this thing stands. Yours with esteem Mat-

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1936

thew Walton 31st July 1810. The Trustees of the town of Springfield. (Reverse) Gentlemen: If on examining the Statement within mentioned and also that the lott No 29 has not been deeded to any person you will please to make a deed for the said lott No. 29 to any person that may produce my note therefore & oblige yrs with esteem Matthew Walton. (Also) Order for Deed produced 18th Aug. 1810. P. J. Booker having produced the note. (To Be Continued)



# MEN and MATTERS

BY O. W. BAYLOR

## BARKLEY AND LINCOLN

Kentucky's senior United States Senator, Alben W. Barkley, was the Lincoln Birthday orator in the upper house of the National Legislature on February 12th. No doubt the Senator spoke in his usual eloquent and forceful manner, to the delight of his listeners on the floor and in the galleries.

I have read with interest and care, the printed speech as it appears in the Congressional Record—read it too carefully, I fear, to agree with all that the Senator said, and though I dislike very much to take issue with him, I certainly must do so on some points.

The Senator spent considerable time in reviewing Lincoln's ancestral background. I don't want to say that I suspicion that he did not do all of the necessary research work himself, yet I fear that he did not. If he did, then he deserves a great deal of credit for doing what others up to his time have not done, namely, establishing to the crossing of the "t" and the dotting of the "i", the parental line of the Great Emancipator.

The Senator, in narrating the Lincoln ancestral background, speaks with a positiveness not found elsewhere in the writings of Lincoln students and historians. In fact he speaks so positively that we are led to ask him where he found the hitherto hidden "facts" about Abraham Lincoln's forebears.

The ancestral part of the speech is so full of inaccuracies, so out of tune with the known facts, so much so that we are led to believe that the material was supplied by someone who thought that one guess was as good as another.

Of course I cannot point out here, all of the inaccuracies of the Senator's oration, but I certainly shall not let the opportunity pass to take issue with him one one or two points.

According to the Senator's chronology, "Abraham Lincoln, I," as he designates the grandfather of President Lincoln, married Ann Boone, a cousin of Daniel Boone, on July 10, 1760. To this union 5 children were born. After a sojourn of several years in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the family moved to Kentucky to settle near Hughes Station, in Jefferson County. In 1784, Abraham I, was killed by an Indian and the widow and their five children were left to make their ways alone in the wilderness of Kentucky. Very shortly, Ann Boone Lincoln and her brood moved to Washington County, "where she totally disappears from further knowledge."

Now; the records show that the name of the wife of Abraham, I, who came to Kentucky with him about the year 1782, was not "Ann" but "Bersheba". I have always believed that the grandfather of President Lincoln was twice married and that at least four of his children were by his first wife, but I have never found any positive record by which her maiden name could be established, nor have I seen in any of the writings of the several internationally recognized Lincoln historians, any positive statement on this score. If Senator Barkley has the record, he has a most important historical "find." But when he says that the woman who came to Kentucky with Abraham, I, and later settled here in Washington County was Ann Boone Lincoln, he says something that is not in accord with documentary evidence and we refer him to the files of The Sun (1932-1935), for material to set him right.

There wasn't any "Ann Boone Lincoln" here in Washington County, either real or fictitious. There was a "Bersheba Lincoln," known and recognized as "the widow Lincoln," whose home from about the year 1782 to the late summer of 1802 was on the banks of Lincoln's Run, in the Beech Fork country of Washington County. Her signature is found in the archives of the county. Her name is on the tax lists of the county. She didn't drop away after the death of her husband. She kept the family together until after her two daughters had married and then she went to Hardin County where she lived to be past 90.

That Abraham, I, was not killed in 1784, as the Senator says, nor yet in 1786, as some historians claim, is now a matter of public record. He was alive as late as April, 1788, when he witnessed a bond in Lincoln County and when a suit was pending against

him in the Nelson County Court. He was not a resident of Jefferson County at the time of his death, but of Nelson, now Washington, and the killing did not take place near Hughes Station but right here in Washington County, not a great distance from the Lincoln cabin on Lincoln's Run. (See Springfield Sun, 1932-1935.)

In another part of his oration, the Senator speaks of Nancy Hanks, the mother of Abraham Lincoln. He links her with a line long since discarded by reputable Lincoln students. He puts her where many of the earlier historians tried to put her but where she wouldn't stay, and for a very good reason: SHE DIDN'T BELONG THERE.

To correct, as it should be corrected, the statement of the Senator with reference to Lincoln's mother, we would be obliged to review all of the material that appeared in our "Abe Lincoln's Mother," published in The Sun some months ago.

We suggest that the able Senator shall, if he anticipates a future invitation to speak on the ancestral and parentage phase of Lincoln lore, do a little browsing in "proven pastures." We humbly ask him, as one Kentuckian to another, to please acquaint himself with Kentucky records, and by all means refrain from making the inexcusable mistake of giving to Washington County one female Lincoln that never here existed, either in fact or fancy.

MRS. BOTTOM HOSTESS

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## THE LINCOLN COUNTRY CELEBRATION

### A Week's Festivities

Sunday afternoon, June 28, the festival opens with services in the Pioneer Village at Rockport, as announced last week. The M. E. Ladies' Aid will serve sandwiches for the convenience of those remaining for get-together picnic in the City Park. Chase & Sanborn coffee, made by Mr. Louis Halbruge, will be served free. The park is an ideal place for families and friends to spend an evening for social pleasure and to enjoy the beauties of nature at this time of day.

Monday evening at eight in the assembly room of the court house another free program will be given. Mr. Ben Branch, local agent for the Standard Oil Company of Indiana, has induced his company to provide "Stephen C. Foster, his Life, his Music, and his Songs," sung by artists; "Trees," a movie of Joyce Kilmer's poem, embellished with pictures and songs; "Washington, the Head of the Nation," and "In Old New Orleans," are both historic and interesting; "Wright in the Jungle," is a portraiture of the adventure of wild life in the Amazon forests that will appeal to nature and adventure lovers. A splendid entertainment free to everyone.

The Southwestern Indiana Civic Association donated \$25 at its Tell City meeting to be given as a prize for the best float in the Parade of Progress on the morning of July Fourth. Business houses are urged to compete for this prize.

Saturday, July fourth, opens with a children's program at 9:00 o'clock under the direction of Miss Lucille Richards, Mrs. Ethel Lawburg and Miss Essie Lee Williams, lasting one hour. It will be given in front of the grand stand and will appeal to all children. The parade follows the children's hour. A prize has been offered in a bicycle race.

The parade opens with a symbolic reproduction of W. P. A. works completed in the park this year. Miss Katherine Houghland is in charge of the float which will represent the lake lately built within the park. Others on the float are Misses Francis Forsythe, Helen Houghland, Mary Emily Halbruge, Ellen Claire Swallow, Virgie Sutton, Mary Jo Kellams, Eileen McCullough, Betty Marie Spradlin, Betty Young and Louise Morris.

We are delighted to announce that both the Democratic and Republican nominees for governor of Indiana, Hon. Clifford M. Townsend and Hon. Raymond S. Springer; Hon. Sherman Minton, U. S. Senator from the 8th District; Wayne Coy, state chairman of WPA work; and Prof. Ross Lockridge, of Indiana University, will be with us on the afternoon of the fourth. It will, indeed, be a gala day with these representative men bringing us a message on the anniversary of the birth of our nation, the United States of America. *Editorial 2/25/36*



## THE LINCOLN COUNTRY 6/4/36 CELEBRATION

*Grandview Monitor*  
One of the day's program of the Lincoln Country Celebration, which begins Sunday, June 28, and continues through July 4th, dedicates a marker donated by L. F. Weiss which tells of the date of purchase of the Rockport City Park by the City Council. Mr. Weiss has always been a public spirited citizen, and was mayor of Rockport when the park was purchased. On this marker of marble will be the names of the members of the City Council and the date of the purchase.

The marker will be a monument of historic value now and for all future generations. It will be placed just beyond the entrance gate, which is at the end of Main street. One entering through this gate will see also miniature log cabins on either side and a flag pole set within a circle of low shrubs, and a winding driveway passing through a beautiful avenue of trees leading directly to the Lincoln Pioneer Village.

This Lincoln Memorial in Spencer county is one of the highlights in southern Indiana. Severe winter weather has delayed the finishing of all details, but each day sees the work nearer a completed piece of artistic endeavor conceived and executed by Mr. George H. Honig and those who have worked under his supervision.

The corn-craeker mill, with a massive stone foundation, stands on an island and will soon be completed.

Spencer county citizens should be thrilled with the various things of interest in our county. Visitors to this county have the Nancy Hanks Lincoln Park, the town of Santa Claus and its park, the German Camp Ground, the St. Meinrad Monastery, the Old Tannery site near Grandview, the Anderson Ferry site, both of Lincoln fame, the site of the Meeks Tragedy near Richland, the beautiful towns of Dale and Gentryville so rich in Lincoln Lore, the Lincoln Pioneer Village and the Lincoln Flatboat Landing, both at Rockport, and numerous other historic sites connected with early county and southern Indiana history.

Make plans to attend the various programs during the celebration at Rockport. Make this a time of homecoming and interest your friends to come with you.

THE LINCOLN COUNTRY  
CELEBRATION

4/17/36 Grandview Monitor  
Our citizens should esteem it a privilege and duty to support in every way the week's celebration. Much publicity has been given through the splendid co-operation of a committee consisting of Mrs. Mina Cook, Mrs. Lizzie Gentry, Miss Laura Wright, U. S. Lindsey, Francis Fella, C. T. Baker and Ottis Brooner.

Thomas Fortune, program chairman, is arranging the plans for the assistance of the Southwestern Indiana Civic Association in the March of Progress, the parade on the morning of July 4th. Hilbert Bennett and Claude Snyder are the chairmen for the parade, and Loney Parsley is the marshal and parking director for the various celebrations during the week. Many clubs and organizations are now making plans for their floats, a list of which will be published later.

The celebration opens Sunday, June 28, with a pioneer religious service in the replica of the "Old Pigeon Baptist church" in the village. Mina Cook, Louise Atchison, George Brown and Mrs. Gertrude Baker of Grandview are chairmen of this affair. Elder W. C. Arnold, of Carmi, Ill., will conduct the old-time primitive Baptist service. Rev. J. Frederick Rak, of Evansville, and Rev. J. F. Gettings, of Rockport, will assist. People are urged to bring their picnic suppers and enjoy the park following the service; also the Lincoln Pioneer Village, which in time will be a national shrine for Lincoln admirers and historians.

The village will be open to inspection with pioneers in costume to make visitors welcome. No charge into the village will be made to those attending the church service. After 3:00 p.m. the usual charge of 10 cents will be made. A free will offering taken during the service will go to the church building.



STATE PARK DIRECTOR  
TOURS LINCOLN SECTION



**BAILEY P. WOOTTON**  
of Hazard

State Park Director Bailey P. Wootton, Frankfort, was in this city Monday and made a tour of the Original Lincoln Country, visiting Lincoln Homestead Park and several other sites associated with the Lincoln family.

Mr. Wootton was the guest of a party of friends at a luncheon at The Walton Hotel before starting his inspection trip, accompanied by several local Lincoln Park boosters.

On his return to this city after the tour, Mr. Wootton visited the old Court House and the office of County Court Clerk John M. Smothers, where he viewed the Lincoln marriage certificate and bond and other interesting documents.

Mr. Wootton was well pleased with that portion of the Lincoln territory recently taken over by the State as a Lincoln Shrine and indicated extensive improvements will be started in short time in cooperation with the Washington County Historical Society, which body sponsored the park project.

7-30-36

# WORK IS STARTED ON PARK HIGHWAY

Road From This City to The Lincoln  
Country Is To Be Improved This  
Fall Under Supervision of  
Rural Department.

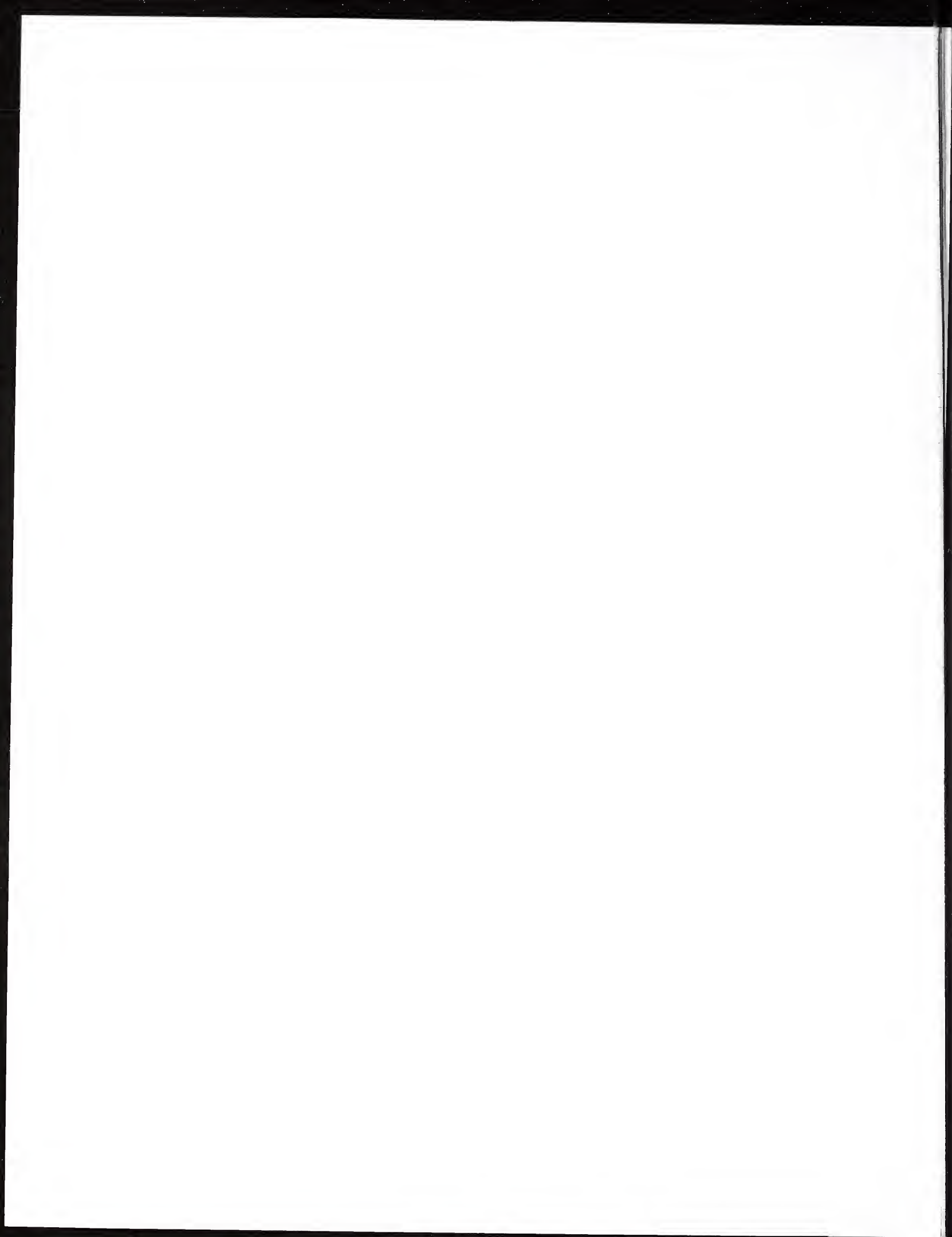
Work on Polin Road, from the city limits of this city via Lincoln Homestead Shrine, got under way Monday morning, the matter of a right of way having been satisfactorily settled, according to information given The Sun.

Improvement on this project is under supervision of the State Rural Highway Department, of which Cecil Williams is head, the sum of \$2,000 having been allotted for its improvement.

A quarry has been opened on the farm of the late J. L. Moran, near Lincoln Shrine, where a high grade metal was found, it is said, and crushing and spreading of stone on the highway was started this morning. A crew of workmen has been busy grading and opening ditches and the work is expected to go forward at a rapid rate during the next few weeks, or until the allotted fund has been expended. *Spencer Sun*

9-17-36







MAIN STREET, LOOKING EAST, SPRINGFIELD, KY

A HEARTY WELCOME  
TO

*Springfield*

*The Gateway to The Original Lincoln Country of  
Kentucky*

One of The Oldest Towns of The State,  
Established 1793



THE COUNTY SEAT OF

*Washington County*

First County Established By The Commonwealth  
of Kentucky (1792)

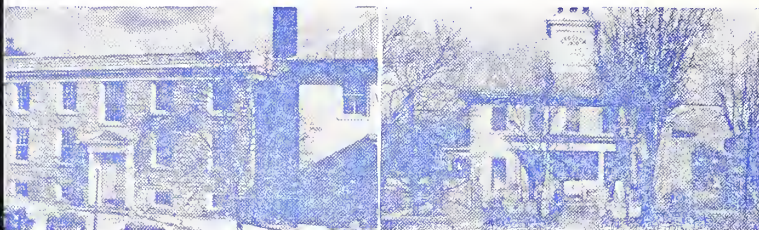


SITUATED NEAR THE GEOGRAPHICAL CENTER  
OF KENTUCKY

58 Miles Southeast of Louisville  
59 Miles Southwest of Lexington

Compliments of





COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

COURT HOUSE



## HISTORIC SITES

### Public Buildings

At the corner of Main and Cross Streets stands the Washington County Court House, one of the oldest structures of its kind in Kentucky. Construction began in 1814 and the building was finished and occupied in 1816. The walls and roof framing remain as originally constructed. During the War Between the States and after the Battle of Perryville in 1862 it was used as a hospital for wounded Union soldiers. Adjoining the Court House on the North is the new County Office Building, where the original marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham Lincoln, together with other old papers and documents relating to the Lincolns may be found in the office of the County Clerk. A marker on the lawn of the public square marks the site of the little log clerk's office where the marriage license for Lincoln's parents was issued. Adjacent to the County Office Building is the old County Jail built nearly one hundred years ago.

### Springfield

Is one of the largest and best burley tobacco markets in the State, having 5 large sales warehouses. Rehandling and packing warehouses are maintained and operated by all leading manufacturers. The town operates its own modern water and sewer systems. Its public and parochial schools rank among the best in the State, and there are churches of the Catholic and various leading Protestant faiths.

### POPE

In Springfield at the corner of Walnut and High Streets is the brick home of John Pope, built by him in 1836 and occupied until his death in 1845. He was one of the most prominent men ever produced by Kentucky. Was United States Senator, Secretary of State for Kentucky, Governor of the Territory of Arkansas, Congressman from Kentucky and a renowned lawyer.

### WALTON

In the cemetery at the foot of Walnut Street is the grave of General Matthew Walton. He was one of the foremost pioneer citizens of Kentucky and thru his efforts Washington County was established in 1792 and the town of Springfield was laid out on his land in 1793. About two miles West of Springfield on the Bardstown Road may be seen the little stone office building erected and used by him during his lifetime. It was afterwards used by John Pope as a school for training young men for the legal profession.

### ROBERTS

On North Walnut Street, near the town limits, is the home of the late well known poet and novelist Elizabeth Madox Roberts (1886-1941) whose best known works are *The Great Meadow*, *The Time of Man*, *He Sent Forth a Raven*, *Black is My True Love's Hair* and *Not By Strange Gods*.

### HARDIN

Approximately two miles south on the Lebanon Road may be found the grave and tomb of Ben Hardin. He was one of Kentucky's greatest lawyers and statesmen. Approximately two miles farther on the same road is the site of Cartwright's Station, built in 1779.

### SCHOOLS

Two miles west on the Bardstown Road is the Convent, Academy and Junior College of St. Catharine of Siena, and nearby is the Priory of St. Rose. Both are more than 100 years old and contain many interesting and historic items.



VIEW AT LINCOLN HOMESTEAD PARK AND GOLF CLUB

## Springfield is the Gateway To the Original Lincoln Country of Kentucky

Five miles North is Lincoln Homestead State Park. The park area embraces a part of the tract upon which the grandparents of President Lincoln settled about the year 1782. A replica of the original log house was erected on the original site in 1933. A fine golf course, under the supervision of the Springfield Golf Club is one of the feature attractions at the park.

## Lincoln Shrines

In the immediate vicinity of Lincoln Homestead State Park are a number of historic Lincoln shrines. These include: The childhood home of Nancy Hanks; the Frank Berry House (erected in 1798) in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married; the homesites of Mordecai and Josiah Lincoln, uncles of President Lincoln; the ruins of the church and school attended by Lincoln's parents; the site on Lincoln's Run where the grandfather of the President was slain by an Indian; the burying ground on the Beech Fork River containing his grave; the site where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks made their first home; the old water mill at Beechland; etc. The park and adjacent historic sites may be reached over the old Frankfort Road, a historic road of the pioneers. However, this road is not improved at the present time. The alternate and best route is via State Road 55 to Valley Hill and thence over a good county road to the park.



---

## Suggestions to Tourists

After visiting the numerous points of interest in Springfield and Washington County, it is but a short drive to Bardstown and Federal Hill (Old Kentucky Home). At Bardstown be sure to see Wickland, the historic home of three governors, and St. Joseph's Church with its famous paintings. From Bardstown you may continue to Hodgenville and Lincoln National Park; thence to Mammoth Cave. If a good return route is desired you may travel via Greensburg, Campbellsville and Lebanon. The entire route may be covered in one or two days as you prefer.

Another desirable drive from Springfield and return is to Harrodsburg and Pioneer Memorial State Park, thence to Shakertown and High Bridge via Brooklyn Bridge and tunnel, thence to Herrington Lake and Dix River Dam, thence to Danville, the home of Centre College, thence to Perryville and Perryville Battlefield, thence to Springfield.

## Parties Interested In Lincoln Lore

And those desiring information regarding the Lincoln Country should inquire of the county officials or of officials of the Washington County Historical Society. Every effort will be made to help you make the most of your visit to Springfield and Washington County.

## Highways

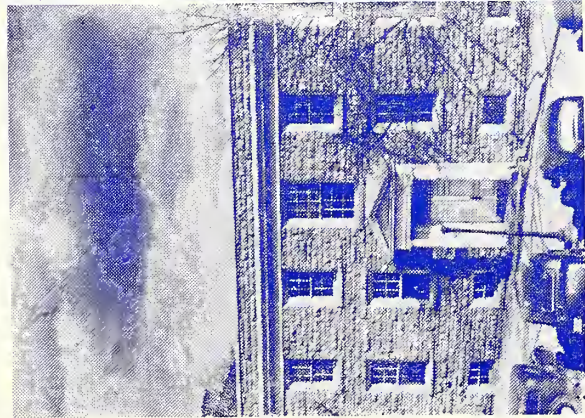
U. S. 63 and U. S. 150.

State Roads 55, 53 and 152 pass through Springfield.



**Ample Tourist Homes, Hotels, Restaurants,  
Garages, For Your Accommodation**

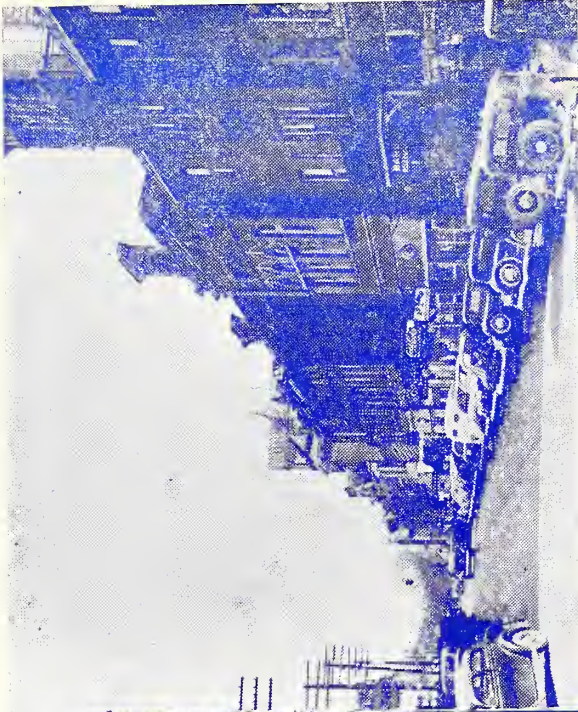
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COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
REPOSITORY OF LINCOLN PAPERS



WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
ERECTED 1814-1816



MAIN STREET (U. S. 68 AND 150) LOOKING EAST

*Don't Overlook Washington County During The Sesqui-Centennial in 1942*

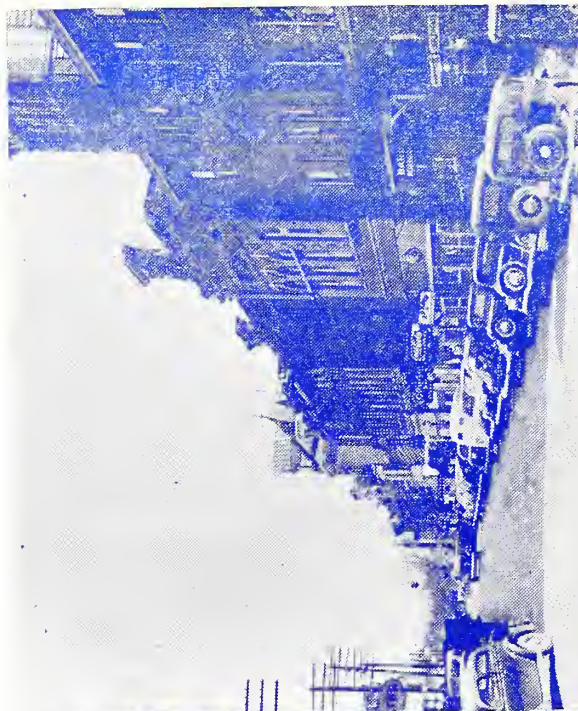




COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING  
REPOSITORY OF LINCOLN PAPERS



WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
ERECTED 1814-1816



MAIN STREET (U. S. 68 AND 150) LOOKING EAST

*Don't Overlook Washington County During The Sesqui-Centennial in 1942*



# KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## COMMUNIQUE

VOL. 6

NOVEMBER, 1952

NO. 4

On the 12th the Executive Committee of the Society recommended to the Records Control Board that it give approval to the transfer of the records of the Court of Appeals, 1860 - 1942, to the University of Kentucky, at Lexington, because no space has been provided for preserving the State's archives in Frankfort. The Board gave approval on the 14th. If an Archives building or records depository center is ever established at the Capital, these records might possibly be returned.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Bowen Family Association of Kentucky on the 16th unveiled a bronze tablet in Powell County in memory of Frederick Bowen, 1780-1852, and his wife Martha Patty Morton, 1784-1850.

\*\*\*\*\*

On the 19th the Bicentennial Anniversary of the birth of Gen. George Rogers Clark was observed at the Old State House. Dr. Hambleton Tapp, Assistant to the President of the University of Kentucky, was the guest speaker on the occasion. The program was co-sponsored with the Frankfort and Susanna Hart Shelby Chapters, DAR.

\*\*\*\*\*

A one-man show of recent paintings by Raymond Barnhart, of the University of Kentucky Department of Fine Arts, was on exhibition in the museum from the 19th through the 29th.

\*\*\*\*\*

Gifts: Portrait of George W. Johnson, Confederate Governor of Kentucky, painted and presented by Tom Loftin Johnson, of Bedford, N.Y. Photostats of documents from the U.S. Senate-

nominations of Captains, Lieutenants and Ensigns for twelve companies to be raised on the frontier of Pennsylvania and Virginia, Mar. 6, 1792, signed George Washington; Recommendation that the Brevet of Brigadier General be conferred on Col. Zachary Taylor for his gallantry in bringing to action a large body of Seminole Indians on Dec. 25, 1837; President Zachary Taylor's nomination of several military officers, Feb. 8, 1850; Presented by Mr. Emery L. Frazier, Chief Clerk, U.S. Senate. Chart of the Wellborn family, given by Mrs. Augusta Thomas.

\*\*\*\*\*

New Members: Georgia - Mrs. H. B. Ritchie; Kentucky - Mrs. J. W. Colvin, Miss Jessie B. Crady, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar E. Hume, Jr., Miss Bertha Scott, Mrs. William Weis, Mrs. W.E. Leachman, Mrs. Lewis F. Gifford, Sr.

\*\*\*\*\*

Acquisitions: Message of Gov. T.E. Bramlette to the General Assembly, 1863-4; Birney, William, Life of James G. Birney, 1890; Cooper, Andrew Steward, Conglomerate Thoughts, 1914; 15 volumes Kentucky Departmental Reports; McCreath, A.S., Mineral Resources of the Upper Cumberland Valley, 1888; Life, Trial and Conviction of William H. Brown of Morgan County, Ky., for the Murder of Morris Higerty, 1863 (typescript); Spalding, Henry S., The Sheriff of Beech Fork, 1903; Craig-hill, Robert T., The Virginia "Peerage;" or, Sketches of Virginians, 1880; Bradley, W.A., Old Christmas and Other Kentucky Tales in Verse, 1917; Mansfield, E.C., The Kentuckian.



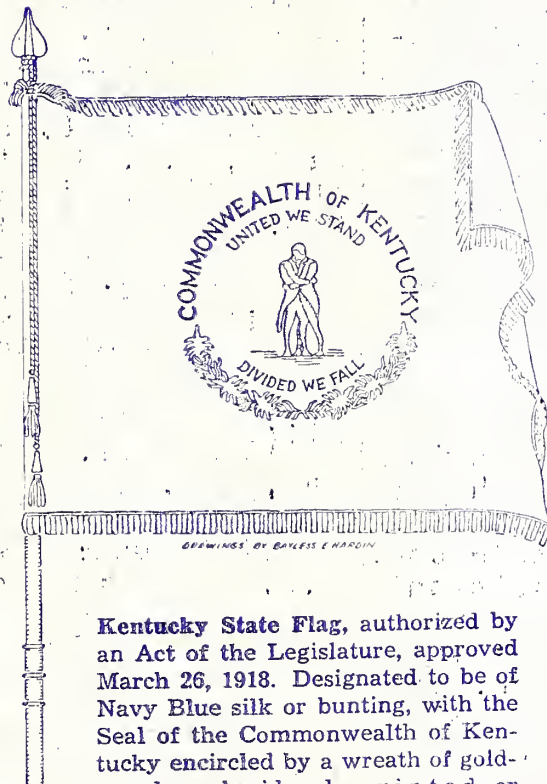


**State Tree.** Tulip Poplar.

**State Flower.** The Goldenrod, designated by a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, approved March 16, 1926. Acts 1926, p. 1025.



**State Song.** "My Old Kentucky Home."

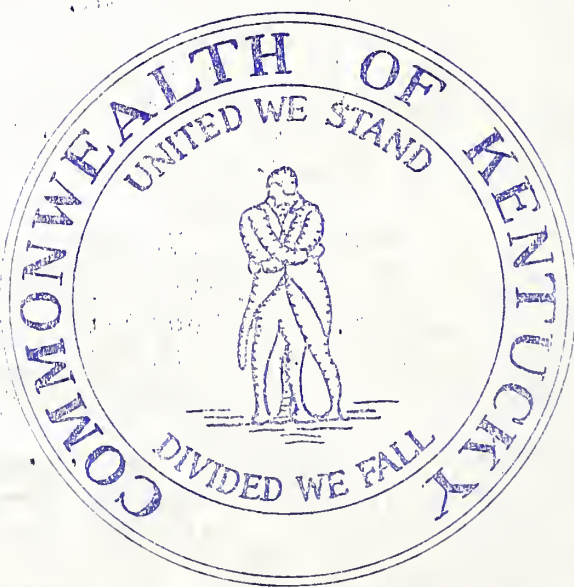


**Kentucky State Flag,** authorized by an Act of the Legislature, approved March 26, 1918. Designated to be of Navy Blue silk or bunting, with the Seal of the Commonwealth of Kentucky encircled by a wreath of goldenrod, embroidered, printed or stamped on the center thereof. Dimensions vary. Acts 1918, p. 126.



**State Bird.** The Kentucky Cardinal, designated by a Joint Resolution of the General Assembly, approved February 17, 1926. Acts 1926, p. 1021.

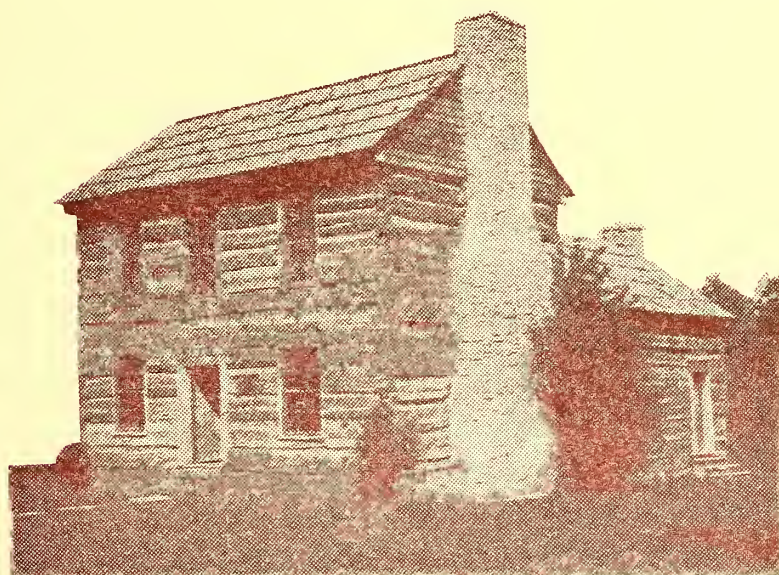
**State Seal.** Provided by an Act of the General Assembly, approved December 20, 1792. Designated to be engraved with the following device: Two friends, embracing, with the name of the state over their heads; and around about them, the following motto, "United we stand, divided we fall." Acts 1792, p. 136.



*Lincoln Sesquicentennial*

## CELEBRATION

*The Marriage of Abraham Lincoln's Parents*



*The Berry Home*

LINCOLN HOMESTEAD PARK

*Springfield, Kentucky*

JUNE 12, 1959



## Lincoln Sesquicentennial Committee of Washington County, Kentucky

Everett Hale, Jr., and William J. Robertson, Co-chairmen.

Mrs. Margaret Elder, Secretary.

Hon. John A. Polin, Hon. Joseph Polin, Dr. Hambleton Tapp,  
Honorary Chairmen.

---

To the hundreds of Washington County citizens whose countless hours of labor and months of planning have made today's Program from yesterday's Dream, we extend sincerest thanks.

---

All those who have had any part in bringing "A Day in June" from out of the past into the present wish to take the opportunity to recognize with pride our own Helen Redmond Lewis.

It is through her tireless study of pioneer Kentucky customs, habits and history, her research into the geneological background of the Lincolns, the Berrys and their Washington County neighbors, her accuracy in detail, her imagination, where imagination is needed, and lastly her ability to weave a drama that we are able to present a re-enactment as pleasant, as poetic and true as will be unfolded here today.

To Helen Redmond Lewis we say a simple but sincere "Thank you."

---

The original Lincoln Marriage Bond is being displayed, under the supervision of deputized attendants, in the log cabin booth on the Club-house lawn.

## Kentucky Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission

Dr. William H. Townsend, Chairman

Dr. Hambleton Tapp, Vice-Chairman

Dr. Rhea A. Taylor, Executive Director

## Program of Events

Trek to Park.....9 A.M.  
"A DAY IN JUNE".....11 A.M.  
Welcome from a Representative of the Commonwealth.....12 A.M.

Greetings from Dr. William H. Townsend

Address by Dr. Hambleton Tapp

Presentation of Plaque honoring Mr. O. W. Baylor by Dr. Tapp

Recognition of Lincoln Penny Collectors by Dr. Rhea Taylor

## Lunch

Contests and Games.....1:30 P.M.  
Songs by the Springettes.....2:30 P.M.  
Costume Awards, Chr. Everett Hale

Miss Edna Ritchie, Folk Songs

Costume Awards, Chr. Wm. J. Robertson

Mr. Jim Morris of "The Stephen Foster Story"

Abraham Lincoln Awards, J. W. Janes

## Square Dance On The Green



## A DAY IN JUNE

### The Wedding of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln

(Principals of this cast are all relatives of the characters they portray)

PROLOGUE .....Donald Campbell  
Uncle Dan, the narrator.....D. C. Hubbard, Jr.  
Nancy Hanks.....Nancy Lucille Walker  
Thomas Lincoln.....Bob Walker  
Mrs. Brazelton.....Mrs. Mary Overall  
Polly Brazelton.....Mrs. Jimmie Hamilton  
\*Francis Berry.....Willis Walker  
Elizabeth Berry.....Kathleen Walker  
Little Richard Berry.....Eric Walker  
Little Mary Berry.....Janice Hale  
Josiah Lincoln and family—Mr. and Mrs. James Albert Walker, Judy Walker, Jimmie Walker, Edwin Hamilton.  
\*Sally Mitchell Thompson.....Janet Goatley  
John Thompson.....Lewis Leachman  
\*Jack Hardin.....Bob Tate McElroy  
Mordecai Lincoln and family—Mr. and Mrs. Chester Goatley, Paula Goatley, Sally Goatley, Billy Hunter Goatley  
Mrs. Ann Berry Deathan and daughters—Mrs. Bob Walker, Sarah Louise Hamilton, Ann Thomas Walker.  
Richard Berry, Jr., and family—Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Peters, Jr., Frankie Peters, Bill Peters, Betty Peters, Mary Haydon Peters, Pete Peters, Penny Polin, Mary Julia Polin, Evvie Polin.  
Henry and Lucy Hanks Sparrow and family—Mr. and Mrs. Murray Walker, Sally Hamilton, Joan Hamilton, Mary Ruth Hamilton, Alice Ann Kelly  
Randall and \*Mary Gregory Litsey and family—Mr. and Mrs. Billy Goatley, Bayse Goatley, Mickie N. Goatley, Edd G. Goatley, Steven Hale.

The Widow Lincoln (Bersheba).....Mrs. Carroll Kelly

Mary Lincoln Crume.....Mrs. Everett Hale

Ralph Crume.....Everett Hale

Ann Lincoln Brumfield.....Betty Lee Hardin

William Brumfield.....Murray Walker, Jr.

\*Jessie Head and family—Mr. and Mrs. David Goatley, David M. Goatley,  
John Boone, Joe W. Boone, Julie Boone, Carroll Kelly, Jr.

Edward Berry.....Jimmie Hamilton

Joseph Hanks and family—Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Russell, Mr. and Mrs.  
Wesley Shewmaker, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wayne, Jr., Mrs. Helen  
Harmon, David and Jackie Shewmaker

Neighbors—Mrs. David Litsey, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Miss Olive Walker,  
Miss Naomi Rodgers, Dixie Snider, Bob Lee Eddleman, Jr., Ralph  
Boldrick, Donnie Polin, Johnny Polin, Mary Shelton Ward, Susan  
Hubbard

Berry slaves—Margie Warfield, Lula Coleman, Jim and Lizzie Brown,  
Ancil and Etta Spurley and Goddard Walker.

Voice of Uncle Dan.....H. A. McCabe

Voice of little Richard.....Hugh B. Gregory, II

Voice of Mary Berry.....Cathy Lewis

EPILOGUE .....Donald Campbell

Script—Helen R. Lewis. Director—Naomi Rodgers. Sound technician—J.  
W. Janes. Advisers—Miss Olive Walker, Mrs. H. B. Gregory, Earl  
Campbell, Joe Haydon.



## **\*Historical Data**

BERRY—Francis and Richard Berry, Jr., assumed guardianship of Nancy Hanks upon the death of their father, Richard Berry, Sr., who was Nancy's uncle. Richard Berry, Jr., signed the marriage bond.

JESSE HEAD—Methodist circuit rider, student of law, Washington County Justice of the Peace, and owner of a cabinet shop in Springfield employing several apprentices, Jesse Head was an influential man in the early days of the county. His home and shop were located on the "town lot" where Mr. John A. Polin's home now stands. The Head family later moved to Harrodsburg where he published a Democratic newspaper called "The American."

SARAH MITCHELL THOMPSON—Kidnapped by Indians at the age of eleven and held captive for more than three years, the orphaned Sarah Mitchell was taken into the home of Richard Berry, Sr., and reared with Nancy Hanks. Married to John Thompson in the spring of 1806, Sarah "stood up" with Nancy at the latter's wedding the following June. Nancy and Thomas Lincoln's daughter was named for Sarah Mitchell Thompson.

JACK HARDIN—During an Indian raid Betsy Hardin, Jack's wife, was captured and carried North by the savages. After several years in captivity, she was recovered by a scouting party of which Mordecai Lincoln, Thomas's brother, was a member. Jack Hardin is said to have hated Indians so fanatically that he had to kill at least one during the day in order to sleep at night!

MARY GREGORY LITSEY—One of Nancy's intimate associates, Mary made the wedding dress and attended the wedding of Thomas and Nancy. The Litseys were responsible for preserving and passing on much of the information on early Lincoln family history.

## Our Musicians

THE SPRINGETTES, recently graduated from Springfield High School, have had numerous singing engagements throughout the state during the last three years. Directed by Mrs. Frances Shultz, they are: Julia McClure, Berry Tapp, Beverly Wharton, Carol Burress, Lana Dae Coyle and Ann Webb.

EDNA RITCHIE, of Viper, Kentucky, is one of the famed "Singing Ritchies" who are credited with preserving the many folk songs that came into Kentucky with the pioneers. Miss Ritchie teaches in Viper High School.

JIM MORRIS, baritone, who has sung roles in "My Fair Lady" and other hit musicals, will portray Stephen Foster in the forthcoming Bardstown production of "The Stephen Foster Story" which opens June 26.

The spiritual heard in the pageant was recorded by the choir of the Springfield A. M. E. Church under the direction of Miss Shirley Spencer.

GUJARISTS—Mr. B. D. Milburn and Mr. Pete Padgett.

FIDDLERS—Mr. Bert Padgett and Mr. Ben Coyle.



## EPILOGUE

And so, on a day in June, Nancy and Thomas Lincoln rode away, across the green meadow where they had played together in the days of their childhood and up the hill where they had picked wild strawberries and hunted for beechnuts and gathered the frost-ripened persimmons. Behind them they left the security of friends and loving kinsmen and the staunch log walls of the homes that had given them shelter. With them went their few belongings—a quilt or two, some extra clothing, an iron kettle, a cherished Bible. Scant furnishings even for the one room log cabin that was to be their home! Ahead of them lay toil and trouble, frustration and disappointment, poverty, illness and untimely death. Ahead of them, too, lay an immortal glory to be reflected upon their memory by a man as yet unborn, a man who would bear their name. But all this, of course, they did not know on that day in June when they rode away together, across the meadow and over the hill - - - .



4

LINCOLN



Berry Cabin, left, and Bersheba Lincoln Cabin in Lincoln Homestead State Park, near Springfield, Kentucky. The Berry Cabin was home of Nancy Hanks during her courtship with Thomas Lincoln. Bersheba Lincoln Cabin stands on site where Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Bersheba, once lived.



Pioneer relics in Bersheba Lincoln Cabin.

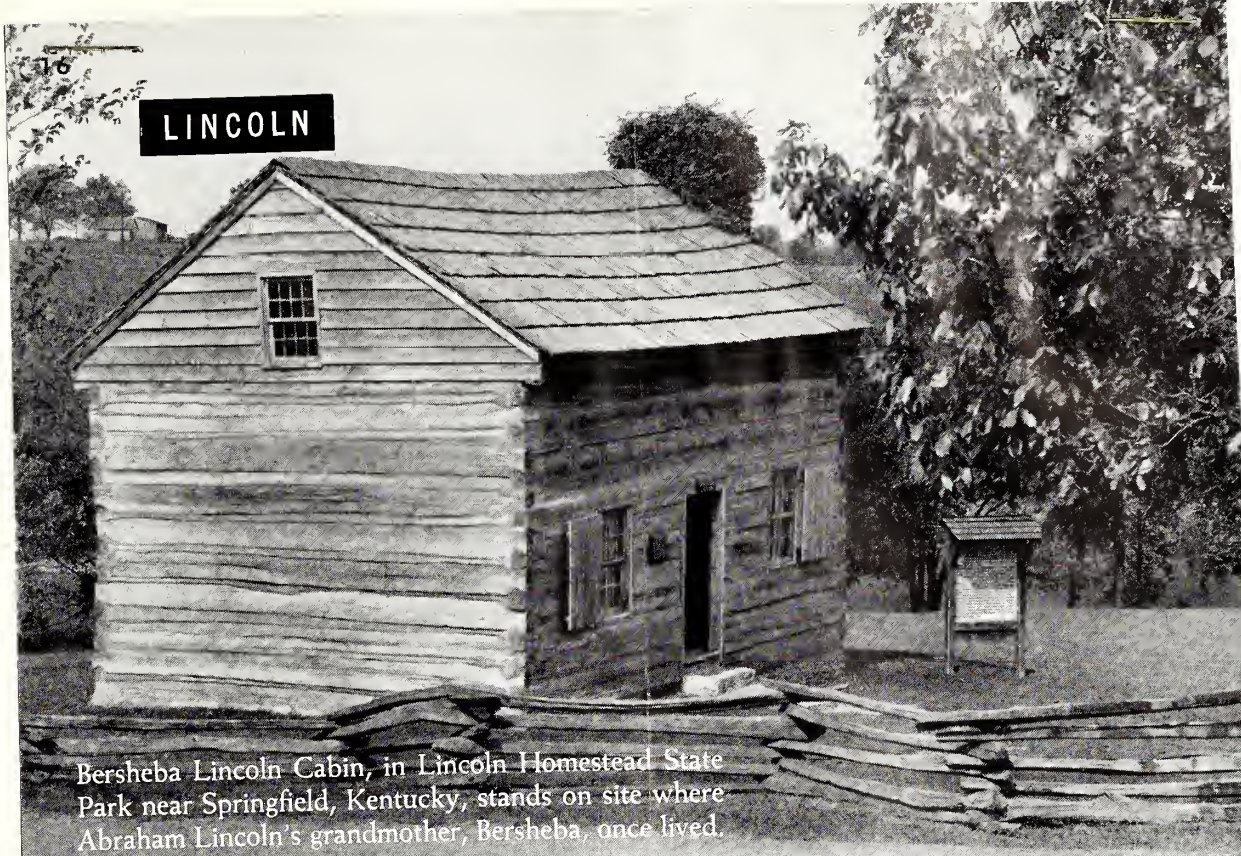
Photos by John E. Thierman





Statue of Abraham Lincoln in Hall of Fame  
at the Kentucky Capitol in Frankfort.





Bersheba Lincoln Cabin, in Lincoln Homestead State Park near Springfield, Kentucky, stands on site where Abraham Lincoln's grandmother, Bersheba, once lived.



Pioneer relics in Berry Cabin, at Lincoln Homestead State Park, include this pulpit built by Reverend Jesse Head, who married Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.





## Lincoln Shrine Bell Tolls Only Twice in Each Year

In the central tower of a red brick building, cruciform in plan, at Harrodsburg, Ky., a bell rings twice each year.

The tolling occurs on two anniversaries - the marriage of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln and the death of their son, Abraham Lincoln.

This temple, its 12 angles representing the 12 Apostles, shelters the small cabin in which the parents of the Great Emancipator are said to have married June 12, 1806.

The cabin has been moved from its original site at Beech Fork Settlement in Washington County. The temple enclosing it stands just inside the colonial gateway of Pioneer Memorial State Park, which honors Kentucky's oldest settlement.

The floor plan of the temple was suggested by an old Baptist church in which the pulpit occupied a central location. This spot is occupied in the temple by the cabin.

Another account says Nancy and

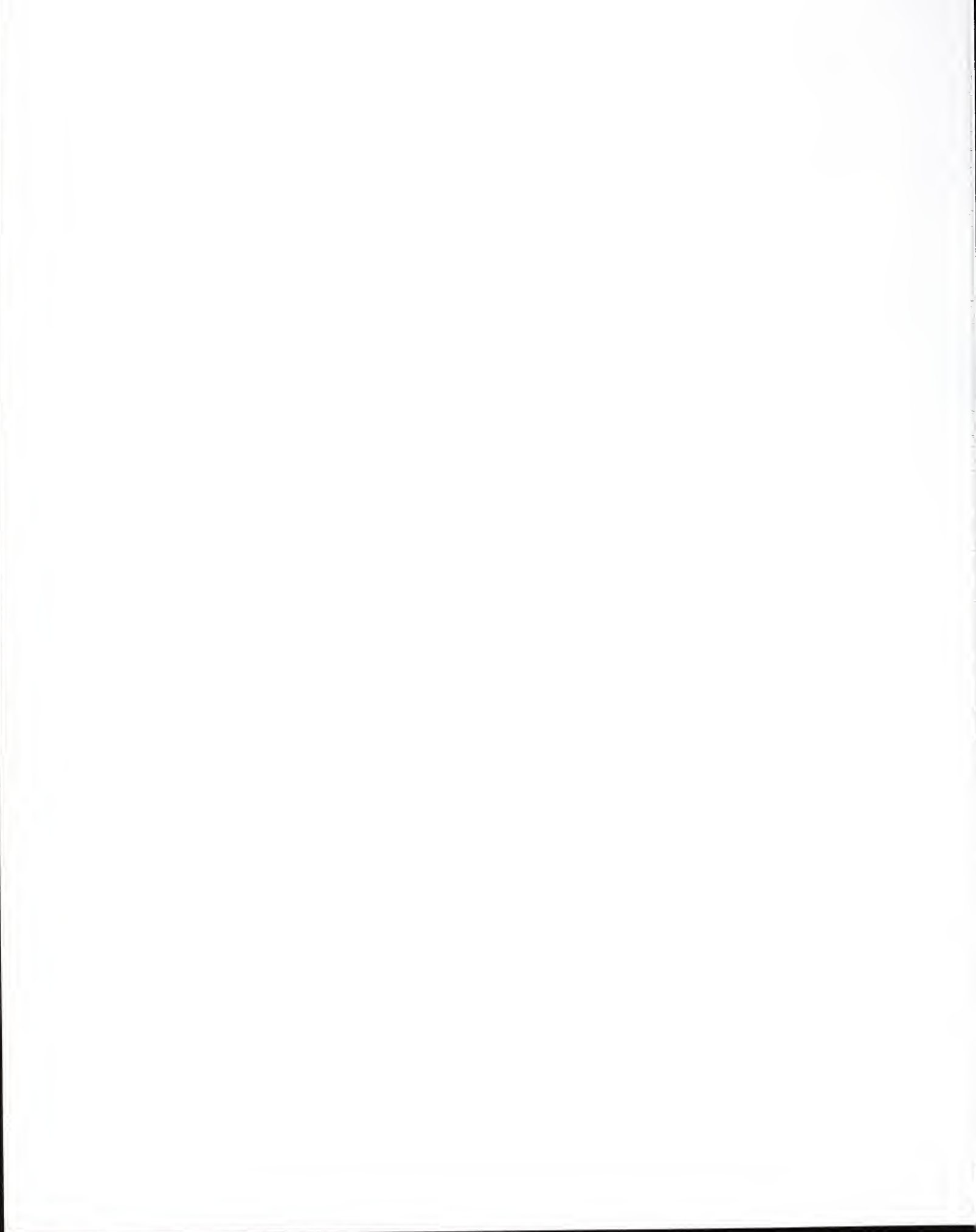
Thomas were married at Beechland in Washington County in a cabin owned by Francis Berry. Into his home, Berry took his cousin Nancy Hanks when she was 10 years old and there she lived until her marriage.

This cabin has been moved and reconstructed in Lincoln Homestead State Park, Springfield, Ky. This building has the pulpit of the Rev. Jesse Head—a prize exhibit in a side room. Head was the eccentric cabinet maker and Methodist minister who married Thomas and Nancy.

Both cabins are sure to gain the interest of many visitors as the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the Nation observe the sesquicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's birth throughout 1959.

Whichever was the marriage cabin, Lincoln's parents soon set up housekeeping at Elizabethtown, Kentucky. It was to Elizabethtown some years later, after Nancy's death, to woo and wed his old sweetheart, the widow Sarah Johnston.







# INCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK

SPRINGFIELD

# Kentucky



Operated by Kentucky Department of Parks





## **Lincoln Homestead State Park**

in Washington  
County in Kentucky's Lincoln country, is  
a repository of fascinating Lincoln lore.

Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, grew to manhood here. Within the park grounds are a reproduction of the cabin that was his boyhood home; the original Francis Berry House, where Nancy Hanks lived for 14 years; and a replica of the blacksmith and carpenter shop where Thomas Lincoln learned his trade. Split-rail fences and pioneer furniture made by Thomas Lincoln and his contemporaries fill out the picture of rugged pioneer life.

An 18-hole golf course within the park comprises land once owned by Mordecai Lincoln, the President's uncle.

### *THE LINCOLN CABIN*

is a replica of the log house in which the President's grandmother raised her children and rests on the same spot as the original cabin. Furnished in pioneer style, it contains several pieces of furniture made by Thomas Lincoln. Its logs are over 100 years old.

### *THE BERRY HOUSE*

is the actual building in which Nancy Hanks, mother of President Lincoln, lived during her courtship with Thomas Lincoln. The house has been moved from the Beechland section, about a mile away. In the living room, before the immense fireplace, Tom proposed to Nancy. On display are pioneer relics and photostatic copies of the marriage bond of the President's parents.

### *THE BLACKSMITH SHOP*

is a reproduction of the building in which Tom Lincoln learned woodworking. His teachers, Richard and Francis Berry, were both master craftsmen. Here some of the tools and materials of the Lincoln era are exhibited. The shop stands at the rear of the homestead cabin, near the creek.

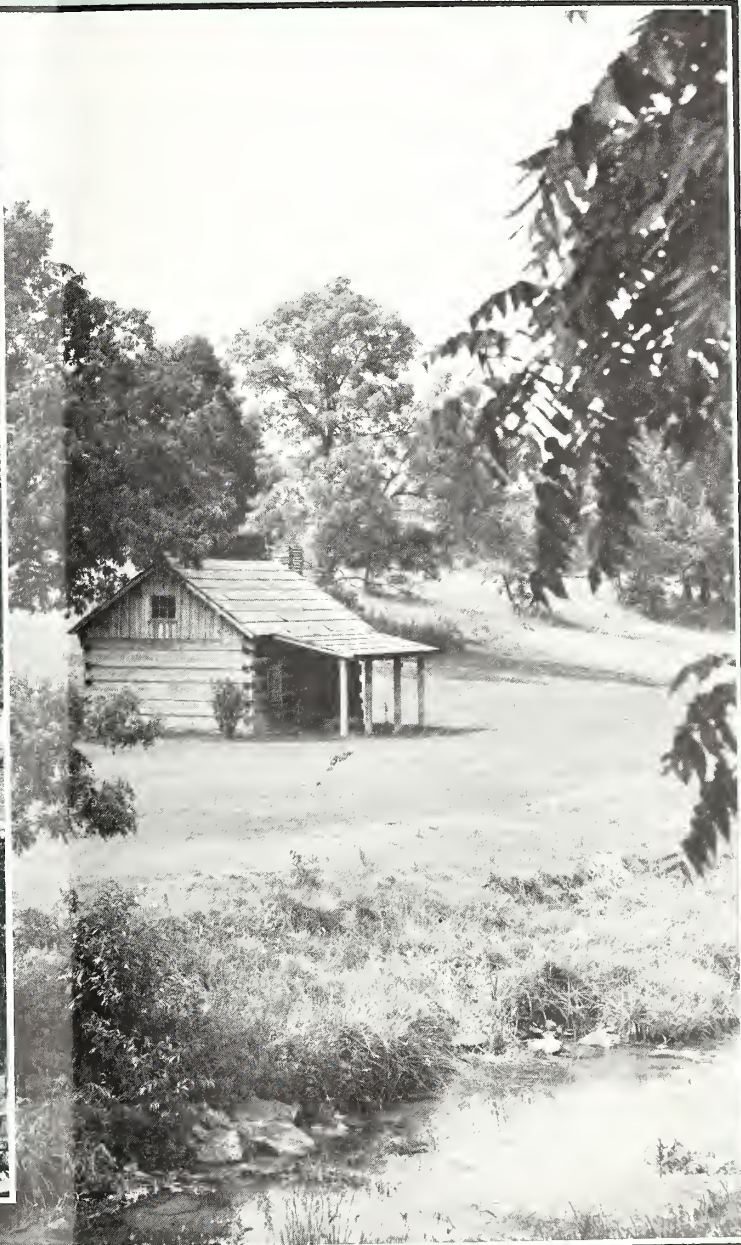
### *A FIELDSTONE ENCLOSURE*

was placed here by the Federal Government in 1939 (before the area became a Kentucky state park), as a memorial to Nancy Hanks.



Published Sept. 1970  
Kentucky Department of Public Information  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
*Printed with State Funds KRS 57.375*

*Top—The Berry House. Center—The Lincoln Cabin.  
Bottom—A beautifully kept 18-hole golf course. Right  
—The blacksmith shop.*







## Thomas Lincoln

as he grew up on this land, naturally learned to farm, and this was always his primary source of livelihood. He also learned woodworking, carpentry, and cabinetmaking, and was in addition a "farm surgeon". Tom lived on his mother's farm until 1803, when he moved to Hardin County.

Tom Lincoln knew Nancy Hanks, who was to become the President's mother, from childhood. Nancy had come into the neighborhood in 1790 to live with her aunt, Rachel Berry. Rachel's husband, Richard Berry, was Nancy's cousin.



According to tradition, the brothers Richard and Francis Berry were Tom's teachers in woodworking, and he got his "trade-school" training in their combined blacksmith and carpentry shop.

Thomas Lincoln returned to Washington County when he was 25, and on June 12, 1806, he and Nancy were married. Their first home was in Elizabethtown.

In 1808 they moved to the Sinking Spring farm, near the present town of Hodgenville, where Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.



# INCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK

## After your visit

to Lincoln Homestead State Park, there are more sites and scenes you may wish to visit in the beautiful Lincoln country of Kentucky . . .

### *ABRAHAM LINCOLN BIRTHPLACE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, Hodgenville*

About 50 miles from Lincoln Homestead State Park is the place of President Lincoln's birth. An impressive marble-and-granite memorial houses the tiny log cabin in which the Great Emancipator was born. On this ground, once part of Thomas Lincoln's Sinking Spring farm, you can see the spring for which the place was named, still flowing deep and full. The Boundary Oak, well over 300 years old, is the only remaining living thing that was alive when Abraham Lincoln was born.

### *KNOB CREEK FARM, near Hodgenville*

Some ten miles northeast of the birthplace is the President's second home. He later said it was the first place he could recall. Here, in a privately operated park, is a reproduction of his boyhood cabin, surrounded by a split-rail fence.

### *WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Springfield*

A number of documents involving the Lincoln family are on file in the county clerk's office, including the marriage bond of the President's parents.

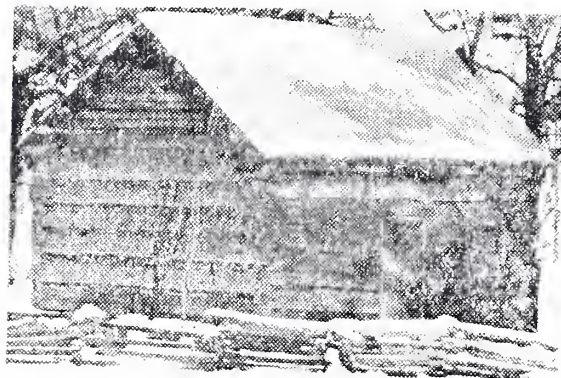
### *OLD FORT HARROD STATE PARK, Harrodsburg*

About 25 miles east of Lincoln Homestead State Park, Fort Harrod, the first pioneer settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains, has been reproduced. Also here is the Lincoln Marriage Temple, which shelters the log cabin in which Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were wed. The cabin was removed to Harrodsburg from Washington County.

### *LINCOLN HERITAGE TRAIL*

The primary route of this trail can be begun in Kentucky at Louisville. It follows US-60 to Lexington, US-68 to Perryville, US-150 to Bardstown, US-31E to Hodgenville, KY-61 to Elizabethtown, US-31W to Tip Top, and US-60 to Henderson. To receive a folder on the trail, write TRAVEL, Department of Public Information, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.





This cabin in the Springfield, Ky., homestead park was the home of his grandmother. His mother, Nancy Hanks, lived in a nearby cabin.



# Document Gives Lie to Lincoln's Birth Slander

Story of Paper's  
Discovery Among  
Dusty Records  
Is Related

Marriage License  
of Nancy Hanks  
and Thomas Lincoln  
in County Records

By HERB LUKENS.

**S**LANDER, cast upon the birth of Abraham Lincoln—Kentuckian, son of the South and martyr of the nation, by demagogues and politicians of the ante-bellum period and the dark days which followed, is definitely given the lie by the document shown above.

It is the marriage license of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln. John M. Smothers, clerk of Washington County, where the license was found, is shown holding it. The document is written with a quill, the ink is faded and the paper is frayed—but what joy it would have brought to the heart of the sorrowing Abe Lincoln, had he ever seen it!

There are few instances in the history of the world where men have risen to greatness from such obscurity, that reputable and reliable testimony could not be obtained of his early life.

Lincoln, himself, was not sure of the exact place where he was born, and it was because of this reason that the slander was allowed to be bruited about for so long.

The elongated rail splitter was of the opinion that he had been born in Hardin County. He had the records of the county examined thoroughly, but could find not any trace of the much-desired information.

## REPOSED IN ATTIC

In Springfield, Ky., the document reposed in the attic of the Washington County court-house. Dusty and neglected, it lay among thousands of old papers, little realizing its own importance or power to bring joy to the heart of the Nation's Executive.

Some years ago Squire R. M. Thompson of Springfield, whose mother was a cousin of Nancy Hanks, and of whose marriage to Lincoln he had often heard his mother refer, determined to find valid proof of the marriage. He had seen a passage in Mark L. Lammon's Biography of Lincoln, which claimed that Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln had never been married.

No indexes had been kept of the records of the county at that early date. Thompson was told that it would be a hopeless task. At last the certificate was discovered and with it the marriage bond, which reads:

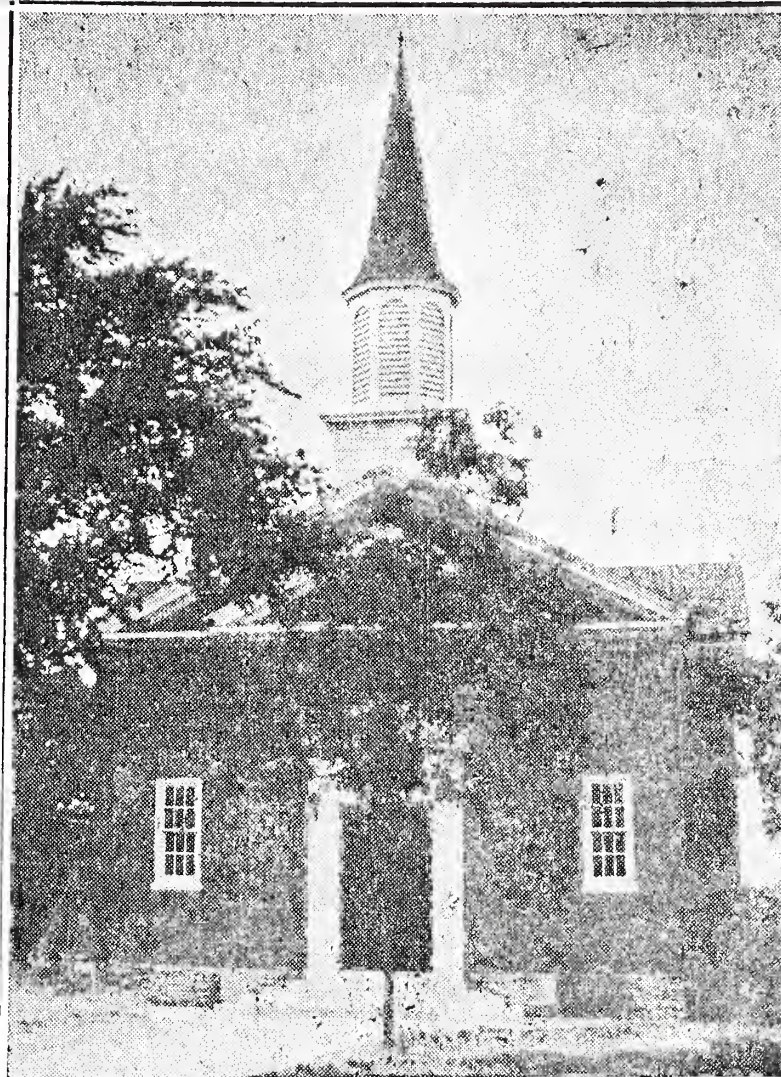
"Know all men by these presents, that we, Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry, are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency, the Governor of Kentucky, in the just and full sum of fifty pounds, current money, to the payment of which, well and truly to be made to the said Governor and his successors, we bind ourselves, our heir, etc., jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals, and dated this 10th day of June, 1806. The condition of the above obligation is such that, whereas there is a marriage shortly intended between the above bound Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, for which a license has been issued. Now, if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said marriage, then this obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue in law.

"THOMAS LINCOLN. (seal).

"RICHARD BERRY. (seal).

"Witness, John H. Parrott."

Jessie Head, D.M.E.C., on April 22,



1807, presented a list of marriages to the clerk of Washington County, certifying that he had performed the ceremonies. Among the list, dated June 12, 1806, were the names of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln.

Richard Berry, who is mentioned in the marriage bond, above, was the guardian of Nancy Hanks. Richard Berry, Jr., said that Abraham Lincoln was born in the house which was recently sold to Maj. D. W. Sanders of Louisville by Mrs. Sallie Reed.

William Hardesty, who lived to an extreme old age, said that he was present at the marriage of Nancy Hanks to Thomas Lincoln by Deacon Head. He also said that a daughter was born to the couple, who died at an early age. She was Lincoln's elder sister.

Judge Richard Browne of Louisville, Ky., told a reporter on one of the Louisville papers that: "Old Mr. James Thompson and William Hardesty told me many years ago that they were at the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks at old Dick Berry's, the grandfather of Nancy Hanks, on the banks of Beech Fork, near what was then called Mattingly's Mills, now called Beechland Mills. Mr. Hardesty told me he remembered Abraham Lincoln as a very small boy, that he lived in Berry's house, in which his father and mother were married and that they soon after moved away into Hardin County, Kentucky."

The log cabin in which Nancy and Thomas were married has been moved



to Harrodsburg and is encased in the shrine shown above. Thursday the shrine is to be dedicated by notables from all parts of the nation and the spirit of Abe, son of the South, may rest peacefully knowing that all blots on his escutcheon have been removed.



# DOUBT

## Cast on Birthplace

### Of Lincoln By Records in Washington County.

### Neighbors Also Deny Martyred President

### First Saw the Light of Day in Larue, Ky.

### Cardinal Gibbons Will Not Be Able To Attend the Centennial Celebration at Hodgenville.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

Louisville, Ky., February 5.—In a special telegram to the Times to-day from Washington, Representative Ben Johnson, of the Fourth District, in which Larue County, the supposed birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, is located, is quoted as saying that Lincoln was not born in Larue County. The telegram says:

"Mr. Johnson is glad to have his district attract such national attention, but he does not believe Mr. Lincoln was born where the world unites in saying he was born. Mr. Lincoln thought he was born there, but Mr. Johnson thinks he was mistaken and that he was born on Beech Fork, over 50 miles away. The fact that the record of the marriage of Mr. Lincoln's parents is in the office of the County Clerk of Washington raised a presumption that Abraham Lincoln was born in that county, but only a presumption. It is a historical fact that they removed to Hardin—now Larue—County when Lincoln was a very small boy. That he believed they removed to Hardin before his birth is shown by a note which he wrote shortly after his inauguration saying that he was born in Hardin.

#### Tried To Find Records.

"Lincoln also thought his parents were born in Hardin and wrote Samuel Haycraft, of Larue County, during the war, asking him to send him a transcript from the county records showing the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

"Mr. Haycraft often told how he made a thorough search of the papers in the Clerk's office, but without finding a trace of the marriage. He wrote to this effect to President Lincoln, and never received a reply.

"It is believed that Mr. Lincoln died in the belief that his parents were never legally married. The first biography of Mr. Lincoln, written by Colonel Ward H. Lamon, of Illinois, contained the statement that President Lincoln's parents were not married. The volume fell into the hands of a Mr. R. M. Thompson, of Larue County, whose mother was a cousin of Nancy Hanks. He had often heard his mother speak in highest terms of the mother of Mr. Lincoln and he was indignant that this aspersion upon the good name of Nancy Hanks should have been cast. He made a search of the records of Larue County, but was unable to find a record of the marriage.

"One time he heard that the Lincolns had removed into the county from the County of Washington. He tried to find a record of the marriage in the Clerk's office in Washington County, but the task seemed hopelessly heavy. The records for many decades had been bundled together by years and stored away in the office, making it a matter of immense labor to find any particular document without knowing the year in which it was filed.

#### Recalls the Marriage.

Finally Mr. Thompson found a Mr. William Hardesty, a very old citizen of the county, who recalled that the marriage was in the summer of 1806 and that he attended the wedding. It was an easy matter to find the record after that. The evidences of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks are a marriage bond executed by Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry in the sum of \$50, conditioned upon there being no lawful obstruction to the marriage, and a return made by Rev. Jesse Head, of the Methodist Church, certifying that he had performed the ceremony on the 12th day of June, 1806.

"Mr. Hardesty and one or two other old people also recalled that the couple lived in the house on Beech Fork in which the marriage took place, and that they had one little girl, the first child, who died. It is said that her name was Nancy, and that a little, sunken grave was found near the site of the old cabin some years ago, and near it a rude headstone on which were cut the letters 'N. L.' Nancy Lincoln, named for her mother. This is not vouched for by Mr. Johnson, although he has heard the story.

#### What Old Citizens Say.

"Old citizens of the county are equally positive that the second child born to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks was a boy, who was named Abraham.

"While not a matter of record, like the marriage of his parents, there really appears little more reason to doubt that Abraham Lincoln was born in Washington County than that his parents were legally married.

"Evan Rogers, Esq., an old citizen of Washington County, and one of the best known and highly respected men in the county, is entirely familiar with the story of Mr. Lincoln's birth, in Washington, and has not the slightest doubt that the country believes that some place other than the one in which Mr. Lincoln was actually born is being regarded as his birthplace. Mr. Rogers has recently made a number of canes from a piece of one of the logs of the old house in Washington County in which Mr. Lincoln was born, and from the Hardin-Larue County cabin in which the Lincoln family resided afterward. The canes contain pieces of the wood of each house, so that the possessor may be certain that he has a real Lincoln cane. While Mr. Rogers was making the canes a granddaughter of Richard Berry, in whose house Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married, told him that he ought to send one to Mrs. Charlotte Vawter, a descendant of the sister of Nancy Hanks. Mrs. Vawter, who was a schoolteacher, and had taught in Washington County, and had boarded at the home of Mr. Rogers's father. Of course, he sent her a cane.

#### All Doubt Removed.

"Mr. Rogers, in a letter to Mr. Johnson, recalls that one Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Lincoln was beginning to come into prominence, as the old gentleman expresses it, without saying whether it was after he was elected to the Presidency, Miss Charlotte, as he calls Mrs. Vawter, and himself went to see an old lady living near the Lincoln cabin, who told a clear and perfectly plain story about the marriage of Nancy Hanks and Thomas Lincoln, which she recalled perfectly. The story made such a deep impression upon Miss Charlotte (Mrs. Vawter) that she never rested until a thorough search had been made of the Washington County records and the legality of the union established. Mr. Rogers says in his letter that it is to Mrs. Vawter that most credit should be given for the discovery of the record of the marriage, and expresses his regret that the record could not have been found before the death of Mr. Lincoln, who, he thinks, died believing that a cloud rested upon his birth.

"But the world seems determined to believe that Mr. Lincoln was born in what is now Larue County, and that determination should not disturb the equanimity of those who are convinced that to Washington County should be ascribed the honor of having been the birthplace of the great war President."

Governor Willson has arranged a meeting at Frankfort, on February 10, for Governor Folk, the President of the association; Mr. Collier, Clarence H. Mackay and John Russell Pope, who designed the Memorial Hall on the Lincoln farm. They will be entertained at a dinner at the Mansion, and it is likely that Mr. Miner will come to

Frankfort on that date and report to Mr. Collier the work that has been accomplished.

The delegation representing the National Association will go out early to the Lincoln farm, while Governor Willson, with his staff and the mounted troopers of the First Regiment, who are to act as an escort of honor to the President, will await his arrival at the depot. The special train from the East which will bring the President and his party will be met by the Kentuckians and they will be escorted out to the grounds, where the officers and members of the National Association will formally welcome them at the Lincoln Home.

Adjutant General Johnston, who is in charge of the arrangements for the Governor and his staff, has been notified that there will be conveyances waiting at Hodgenville for all the members of the Governor's party. Horses have also been provided for the guard of honor, the Louisville militiamen who will escort the President.

# FEUD

## Of Kentucky Counties

That Claimed To Be the Birth-  
place of Lincoln

Is Settled By the Federal Gov-  
ernment's Action.

Picture of the License of "Uncle Abe"  
and Nancy Hanks Shown  
To Visitors.

### SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

Louisville, Ky., May 23.—Now that the Federal Government has placed its seal of approval on LaRue County, Kentucky, as the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln by appropriating \$50,000 to the Lincoln Farm Association fund, Washington County is mad at her neighbor.

Each county claims that Abraham Lincoln was born within its own confines on February 12, 1808, and that if the centennial is held in the other on February 12, 1909, "history will be outraged and grave injustice done the generations of future Americans which will come to worship at the shrine of the 'First American.'"

From the revered McGuffey's Reader to the more elaborate textbooks of the present day school children are taught that in Hardin (what is now LaRue County) Kentucky, the great Lincoln first saw the light through the flapping canvas and rags that sheltered the "half faced camp" from the winds of Rolling Fork. The student reads that at the age of 7 the emancipator that was to be journeyed with his father, "Shifless Torm" Lincoln, and his family to the Indiana wilderness, where a few years later he left for good to settle in the country of Illinois, where he practiced law, read books by firelight, kept store, "fought, bled and came away" in the Blackhawk War, was sent to the Legislature, to Congress, and made of his defeat for United States Senator the stepping stone to the chair in the White House.

If one tells this story in Washington County, Kentucky, there are many old women and old men who will look askance during the early part of the narrative and say that it is well enough during the later portions. They will not deny that "Ab'rum" went from Hardin to Indiana, and from Indiana to Illinois; nor will they deny that he made a ladder of his defeats to mount to the Presidency.

### WHAT THEY'LL DECLARE.

But from W. F. Booker, County Clerk of Washington, who lives at Springfield, Ky., to W. F. Neikirk, State Fire Marshal, they will declare that Abraham Lincoln was born just outside of Springfield, and that he spent his baby days in the boundaries of Washington County, a quarter of the way

across the state from the usurping LaRue and Hodgenville, which, they say, has monuments, farm associations and graveled boulevards through its false claim.

Dead but a few years, there lived an old man named Hardesty, just out of Springfield, who was at the wedding of Abraham Lincoln and Nancy Hanks in Washington County, and who, his friends and his children say, told often how he went over to see the infant Lincoln as he lay in the cabin of his father. One old woman still lives in Washington County who has sworn that she saw the Lincolns married, and remembered perfectly when their child was born. Whether or not this was Abraham she is not sure, and there is the only flaw in the reasoning of Washington County. If there was another child, a boy, this was the one whom the patriarchs of Washington County remember as an infant in the cabin near Springfield. If there was no older son, it was the future President whom they saw on the raw winter morning in 1808.

And ten miles out of Springfield, near the old home of "Shifless Torm" Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln, is a little grave with the wooden headstone and the letters carved nearly a hundred years ago by rude backwoods fingers. Whether this is the resting place of the older brother of Abraham Lincoln or not is the disputed question, but the old people of Washington swear that they remember when the inscription told that a girl was buried there, and that this girl was a sister of Abraham Lincoln, who had died after he was born and before his family struck out across the early nineteenth century Kentucky wilderness to Hardin County in that portion which is now LaRue.

### THEIR MARRIAGE LICENSE.

One thing is certain: Old Squire R. W. Thompson, now dead, had the license of "Shifless Torm" Lincoln and Nancy Hanks framed and hanging in his residence, and he who journeys to see Clerk Booker can be shown a picture of that license even now, with the date of Washington County, Ky., upon it. And the testimony and the handwriting of the Rev. Jesse T. Head, of Harrodsburg, Ky., is still on the faded certificate to show that he married the pair in Washington County.

The missing link in the chain seems to be the record of the birth of the boy baby on the old books of Washington County. But these were all destroyed in a great fire about war-times, and for that reason alone Washington is unable to prove or disprove finally that she heard the great President's first cries for the moon and walls for his "mammy."

And by the appropriation of \$50,000 last week, Hodgenville, LaRue County, gets the centennial, the improved Lincoln farm, the boulevard from the city of Louisville to the farm, the statue in the public square and the red place on the maps of those who revere the native places of the great. But Washington County will never quite be content. And Washington County will look pityingly at Theodore Roosevelt when he speaks of the native forests of Abraham Lincoln and of the first wade in the waters of Rolling Fork.

The President will be the chief speaker at the ceremonies this fall when the Lincoln farm in LaRue County, bought by the voluntary contributions of Americans, will be turned over to Uncle Sam to be preserved as a national park.



# QUESTION OF LINCOLN'S BIRTHPLACE REVIVED

RECORDS OF WASHINGTON CO.,  
KENTUCKY, FOUND.

## TWO CHILDREN BORN THERE

LOUISVILLE, February 6.—In a special telegram to the Times from Washington, Representative Ben Johnson, of the Fourth district, of which Larue county, the supposed birthplace of Abraham Lincoln, is a part, is quoted as saying that Lincoln was not born in Larue county. The telegram says:

"Mr. Johnson is glad to have his district attract such national attention, but he does not believe Mr. Lincoln was born where the world unites in saying he was born. Mr. Lincoln thought he was born there, but Mr. Johnson thinks he was mistaken, and that he was born on Beech Fork, over fifty miles away. The fact that the record of the marriage of Mr. Lincoln's parents is in the office of the county clerk of Washington raised a presumption that Abraham Lincoln was born in that county, but only a presumption. It is a historical fact that they removed to Hardin—now Larue—county when Lincoln was a very small boy. That he believed they removed to Hardin before his birth is shown by a note which he wrote shortly after his inauguration, saying that he was born in Hardin.

### Lincoln Tried to Find Records.

"Lincoln also thought his parents were born in Hardin and wrote Samuel Haycraft, of Larue county, during the war, asking him to send him a transcript from the county records showing the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

"Mr. Haycraft often told how he made a thorough search of the papers in the clerk's office, but without finding a trace of the marriage. He wrote to this effect to President Lincoln, and never received a reply.

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### Recalled the Marriage.

Finally Mr. Thompson found a Mr. William Hardesty, a very old citizen of the county, who recalled that the marriage was in the summer of 1806 and that he attended the wedding. It was an easy matter to find the record after that. The evidences of the marriage of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks are a marriage bond executed by Thomas Lincoln and Richard Berry in the sum of \$50, conditioned upon there being no lawful obstruction to the marriage, and a return made by the Rev. Jesse Head, of the Methodist church, certifying that he had performed the ceremony on the 12th day of June, 1806.

"Mr. Hardesty and one or two other old people also recalled that the couple lived in the house on Beech fork in which the marriage took place and that they had lived in the house until after the death of the father.

# CONFIDENCE IS NEEDED HERE TO PUT PARK OVER

Opportunity Waits At Our Door And  
County May Come into Its Own If  
Citizens Are Willing To  
Do Their Part.

## TOMORROW IS TOO LATE

Editorially speaking, The Courier-Journal says to its many readers of Louisville and Kentucky at large this morning:

"Few outsiders would think of charging Louisville and Kentucky with a lack of confidence in their own unique assets. Yet that lack of confidence actually exists. Kentucky is publicized all over the Nation as a place of beauty, charm and hospitality, but the publicizing is seldom done by Kentuckians. Louisville is known everywhere for the same qualities, but the city itself has never bothered to spread the report of its peculiar attractions."

Louisville does not stand alone in the indictment. What is her failing is our failing too. Of course, there will be those who deny the allegation but the facts are self-evident. If the metropolis of our fair State harbors a lack of confidence in her own unique assets, we of Washington County are guilty along with her, for, we certainly have not displayed a super-abundance of confidence in any publicizing of the one unique asset that we have here in Washington County. That asset, as our readers well know, is the Original Lincoln Country of Kentucky.

It has been a hard, uphill battle, the work of opening the Lincoln Country, that for so many years has remained closed and unpublicized, and it has been so primarily because a great many people in Washington County have harbored what the editor of The Courier-Journal chooses to term "Lack of confidence in their own unique assets." If the citizens of Springfield and Washington County would throw themselves into the project, Lincoln Homestead Park could be put over on a big scale.

A few enterprising citizens of our town and county have seen the vision and with the very limited means at their command have been fighting the fight, but the greater part of the citizenry has yet to show its confidence and do its part to make our community a mecca for increasing streams of tourists that pass through Kentucky

We, by our own efforts, may not be able to make our one unique asset the international drawing-card that it could and should be, but we can, by the manifestation of the greatest confidence herein, so publicize it as to attract outside interest and aid and thus assure the greatest possible development of the project.

The greatest need of Lincoln Homestead Park, in the Original Lincoln Country of Kentucky, at the present time, is not State or Federal aid, however much such aid may soon be needed. Our greatest need is that confidence, ever a very necessary prerequisite to success, for which the editor of The Courier-Journal pleads. We must first see, what those who live afar have long seen, that the Gods of Fate through the unstinted use of nature and history, have made it possible for us to do something in a big way for ourselves, our community and our posterity.

Every business in Springfield and the other towns of the county would certainly feel the effects of the establishment and maintenance of a State or National Park in the Original Lincoln Country. That follows as sure as the night follows the day, and only utter lack of confidence on our part renders us incapable of realizing the fact. Opportunity waits at our door, assuring us that our community may come into its own if we are willing and ready to do our part. Now is the time to hold up the hands of the leaders in the movement to make a national mecca-ground of the land of the immortal Lincoln's forebears. Tomorrow may be too late.



# WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DESERVES SUPPORT IN ITS PROJECT

(Editorial by Tom Wallace)

Under the above heading, Editor Tom Wallace of The Louisville Times, makes the following remarks relative to the merit and needs of Lincoln Homestead Memorial Park in this county, at the same time lauding efforts of the Historical Society:

"Not only as a fact finder, but also as an impresario, the Washington County Historical Society has done well.

"Its work deserves more interest and support than it is likely to get until roads leading to the scene of yesterday's ceremonies are modernized.

"The foundational work of the organization was digging up from the records the marriage certificate of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks and procuring six acres of ground at the scene of the marriage.

"That was followed by a plan to present reproduction of the wedding, with descendants of pioneers who witnessed the wedding in the costumes of the period of the ceremony.

"The plan has been carried out admirably. When good roads approach the reservation all roads will lead to springfield at the time of such celebrations as yesterday's.

"Obviously keeping up such a memorial as it has established would be a severe strain on the resources of the Washington County Historical Society, which, The Times understands, gladly would turn over to the State what it has created if it could get sufficient acreage to warrant the State accepting it as a park.

"Then a road would be built.

"There should be State reserva-

tions under two classifications, parks and monuments. The Washington County Historical Society has brought into being something wholly suitable as a State monument. There is nothing in its present or foreseeable form which would give it the recreational value a State Park should have.

"It might become a memorial park. That term now is used to designate similar reservations.

"At yesterday's celebration, although early forenoon clouds promised the rain they delivered copiously before noon, automobiles were parked a half mile from the reservation on roads in three directions.

"Everyone who parked had two wheels off the macadam, that the road might not be blocked.

"The project of the Washington County Historical Society hasn't a fair chance to score the success its merit deserves while this condition continues."



# **Lincoln Homestead Park Needs Your Help !**

Washington County's Memorial to Lincoln and his forbears will be finished and dedicated this summer if her citizens respond to the appeal for funds.

## **HELP FINISH THE PARK**

By giving your donation to one of the workers or to Mr. W. D. McElroy, Treasurer.

## **All Names and Amounts**

Will be published in next week's issue of The Sun. Only subscriptions actually paid in will be reported. Will your name be there as a Booster for Lincoln Park?

## **We Must Raise The \$500**

To supplement labor furnished by the Government. As soon as our fund is subscribed we can resume work.

**Let's Finish The Park Now  
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!**



**EXPAND** Your correspondent has  
**THE PARK** heard it rumored that  
when the Kentucky State Parks de-  
partment begins to develop and op-  
erate Lincoln Homestead Park in  
Washington County, it will be widely  
advertised. It is also rumored that  
the department of parks is not satis-  
fied with the small parcel of historic  
land it holds in the Original Lincoln  
Country.

Bailey Wootten, Director of State  
Parks, has his eye on the old Francis  
Berry house near Poortown, familiar-  
ly known as the Polin house. He is  
satisfied that it was there the parents  
of Abraham Lincoln were married on  
June 12, 1806. Talking with your  
correspondent a few days ago, the  
General said he hoped a way could be  
provided whereby the State of Ken-  
tucky could get the old Francis Ber-  
ry house. "If the State gets the house  
and a small tract of ground surround-  
ing," he said, "it would be restored  
and exhibited as the marriage place  
of Lincoln's parents. We would then  
work for good roads through the Lin-  
coln Country of Washington County  
so that visitors could motor from one  
historic spot to another."

General Wootten also suggested  
that the Washington County Histor-  
ical Society sponsor a movement to  
place suitable markers at all of the  
historic sites in the Lincoln Country.  
The markers would tell in brief the  
historic significance of each site so  
that tourists starting from the home-  
stead cabin could motor from one site  
to another. No less than 15 sites  
could be included in the tour. Here  
is something to think about. A Hal-  
lowe'en festival would provide funds  
for the markers.

: : = : :

**HAVE YOU** Have you noticed the  
**NOTICED?** sites of historic inter-  
est at Frankfort—the sites that vis-  
itors from other States delight in?

*Baylor*  
*2/15/64 Sun*

## MAY LOSE PARK

It is more or less disconcerting to those who have long been boosters of Lincoln Homestead Park in our county that the county may lose this important project, due, in a large measure, to a lack of interest, or, perhaps, a misunderstanding, on the part of Washington County's citizens.

It will be recalled that some months ago a WPA allotment was made for this project but, for some unknown and unaccountable reason this fund was never received. The only cause for this was, as The Sun can best ascertain, misapprehension on the part of those who were overzealous in the promotion of roads, it being the idea every dollar accruing to Washington County should be spent on our roads, a position that was well taken, of course, but one which may eventually deprive the county of one of its greatest assets, a Lincoln Park and preservation of the Original Lincoln Country within the confines of our county.

Realizing what this loss would mean to the county, a number of Park enthusiasts appealed to the powers that be for a special grant for this project, which was conditionally made, and which may yet materialize if sufficient local interest can be aroused. This special grant, let it be understood, is from the W.P.A. Park Fund, and, in the event it is not used, will revert to said fund if requirements are not fully met within a specified time. Not one penny of this fund can be secured for roads, nor could be expended for the construction of roads if passed on to the county. Every dollar must be spent for the improvement and beautification of the Park proper, under supervision of the State and Works Progress Administration. If, as above stated, Washington County does not receive this fund for Lincoln Homestead Park it will be reallocated and spent on another park, in Larue, Hardin or some other county, perhaps, for the improvement of parks, or shrines, already established, and in which the citizens have justified pride and sufficient interest to not only push them relentlessly but put them over as added links in Kentucky's ever-growing chain of historic spots, dedicated to the memory of some outstanding character, than whom none exceed in public interest the Lincoln family.

It would be nothing less than tragic if Washington County should lose this one golden opportunity to capitalize on and open up to the world the one and only original Lincoln Territory in Kentucky. It would mean that in the future tourists by the hundreds would pass through Washington County enroute to other shrines, any of which could never be of equal importance, and interest, without knowing, perhaps, they were in the heart of the original homeland of the Lincoln family. It would mean a financial loss to the county that is inestimable because, at present, it is impossible to determine the unlimited possibilities offered through promotion of this important project.

The motoring season is at hand. Tourists are passing through out town and county each day, and most of them stop by to see the Lincoln marriage bond and to visit Lincoln Park, only to be informed, regretfully, the park is not yet open, the road is bad, or some other excuse that can be summed up quickly to prevent embarrass-

## THE SPRINGFIELD SUN, SPRINGFIELD, KY.

ment on the part of the informant.

Why continue in an apologetic attitude toward Lincoln Homestead Park? Why not arise and demand the recognition justly due? Why not become a booster for this project and join forces at once with the Washington County Historical Society and the few citizens who have given liberally of their time and effort to secure for you and your county a shrine that will stand as an everlasting monument to the progressiveness of our citizenship as well as to perpetuate the memory of the immortal Abe Lincoln and his forbears?

A bit of enthusiasm on the part of our citizens; a bit of money added to the present fund, plus a lot of energy pitched into the fight that is being made may put Washington County on the map in the future. Lack of all may mean the passing of a golden opportunity that may never return.

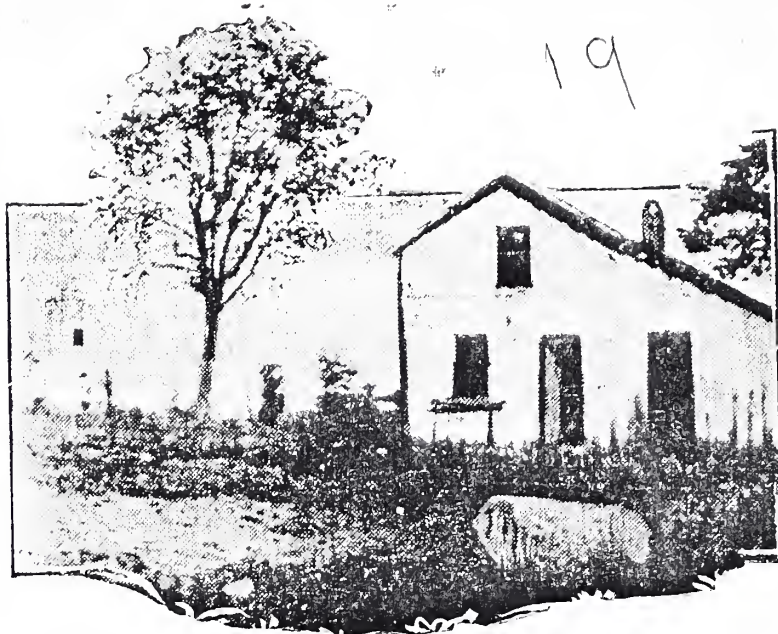
Washington County, what is to be the answer?



**F**OR a hundred and fifty years after Samuel Lincoln landed in 1630 on the shores of New England, the Lincoln family had been in the vanguard which was opening the new continent. Their migration from New England to New Jersey, New Jersey to Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania to Virginia, Virginia to Kentucky, marked as it had been by hardship and perils, had been made without tragedy. But when Abraham, the grandfather of the President, while at work on his clearing, near Louisville, was killed by an Indian, the irreparable pioneer tragedy took place—the death of the head of a family where the children were still young.

Bathsheba Lincoln must have asked herself, again and again as she bent over the dead body of her husband, what was to become of her and her children. There were five of them now—three boys and two girls—the oldest, Mordecai, not over 14. True, she had upwards of 3000 acres of land, but, even if the Indians had not been so threatening, her boys were too young to finish the cabin that Abraham Lincoln was building when he was killed, to carry on the clearing and cultivation of their 400-acre tract near Louisville, Ky., which they had chosen for their home.

Fortunately for Bathseba Lincoln, she had friends, not a few of them, about 40 miles to the south in what is now Washington county—families that had come into Kentucky either with her or near the time she did. Most important to her no doubt at



Site of first permanent Lincoln home in Kentucky. Poortown, Washington County, Ky. (From a photograph made by William Fortune.)

this sorrowful moment was her husband's cousin, Capt. Hananiah Lincoln. He had become a man of considerable importance in the country by this time. There is an entry in the Washington county records of one tract of between eight and nine thousand acres in Hananiah's name. He bought and sold tracts, too, in other parts of the country, and he had sufficiently established himself in the respect of the community for the court to appoint him a captain of militia in the First Battalion. In the record of this appointment, to be seen in the Bardstown Court House, he is recognized as "gent". That is, Bathsheba had a man of parts, related to her husband, to befriend her. Then, too, we must remember that the pioneers turned, as a matter of course, to help those in

trouble. The orphan was "passed around" as the phrase was, and the labor on the widow's land was divided among the kindly disposed. Bathsheba found many friendly hands stretched out to her when she reached Washington county; and from that time to her death she continued to live there, her name appearing regularly on the tax lists up to 1793.

This fact and the fact that the inventory and appraisal of Abraham Lincoln's personal property are in the court house of Bardstown, Ky. (then the county seat of Washington county) have convinced many people that the Lincoln family had always lived there and that Abraham Sr., was killed there. More than one of the first families in that region has in the later years made affidavit

# SPRINGFIELD SUN

Issued Every Thursday



H. L. SMITH and J. S. MORAN  
Editors and Publishers

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## NEW HIGHWAY PROPOSED

A new Federal Highway, traversing, for the most part, the old York Trail, is proposed, and meetings are being held, or have been held, tending to arouse interest in this important project, which would lead from Chicago to Miami, forming one of the shortest and most direct routes for tourists enroute to and from the South.

Many readers of The Sun recall the effort made some years ago to have the York Memorial Highway designated as a Federal project and aid of State and Federal Highway officials was enlisted in the undertaking, which went for naught, it seems, even though it was a meritorious one.

One phase of the newest proposal The Sun dislikes, to be perfectly frank, is that it is now proposed to change the route so as to miss Springfield, which originally was one of the pivotal points on the York Trail. The change proposed is that portion of the highway from Bardstown to Lebanon, which is to be rerouted via Loretto, Holy Cross and St. Mary to Lebanon, thence via Campbellsville and Columbia South.

We would in no wise deprive Loretto, St. Mary, or any other town of a worthwhile project, of course, but in view of the fact it is proposed to have this route traverse the most scenic and historic points in the State, it seems it would be inconsistent not to include the Original Lincoln Country on this important Federal Highway.

Tourists enroute South, or on return North, would naturally wish to visit this historic spot and to route them so as to miss it entirely would be to deprive them of a visit to one of the Nation's most widely publicized, and most important shrines. Then, too, it would be an injustice to the interests of the State to leave off an attraction of such import.

Even though the powers that be are inclined to follow the proposed route in its entirety, The Sun is vitally interested in this project and believes it to the interest of all concerned to lend all possible cooperation to secure this new Federal Highway, since tourists will naturally include the Lincoln Country in their itinerary and Springfield and Washington County will benefit largely by this influx of North-South traffic, in that it is about the same distance to Bardstown from Lebanon and none will wish to pass up the opportunity to visit the site of the old Lincoln Homestead, the Berry Home, and other historic spots in this section, which soon will be marked by bronze tablets, if plans are carried to a successful conclusion.

## KENTUCKY'S PARKS

The Sun received this week a folder on "Kentucky's Parks, National and State," sent from Hon. Bailey Wooten, Director Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation, Frankfort, which is a neat bit of craftsmanship, describing in brief many of the scenic and historic spots in Kentucky.

We were especially pleased to note the fact the folder carried a picture of the Lincoln Cabin in Lincoln Homestead Park in this county, together with a brief statement to the effect that "the State has recently taken over twenty-two acres of land embracing the original home of Abraham Lincoln, Sr., where he settled on coming to this county in 1782. Nearby stands the home of Richard Berry, uncle of Nancy Hanks, where the latter lived from 1792 to 1797. Also the original home of Francis Berry, cousin of Nancy Hanks, with whom she lived after the death of her uncle Richard until her marriage to Thomas Lincoln in 1806."

Continuing, the sketch also invites attention to other interesting spots in this area, the Original Lincoln Country, which includes the site of the first home of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks, the old water mill where the Lincolns and Berrys had their corn ground, the site of the school and meeting house they attended, and the grave of Nancy, the first child born to Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks.

To this list should have been added the home of Mordecai Lincoln, the site of the old home of Josiah Lincoln and Lincoln Run, the small stream which runs through the Original Lincoln Country, on whose banks the Lincolns established their original home in this historic community.

Now that the State has the boundary, Washington County should do her bit to encourage the promotion and improvement of this very important project. Not only should County Officials direct their attention and their efforts toward this end but our citizens should cooperate in every possible way. In the short space of a few years the Original Lincoln Country will become one of the greatest tourist attractions in the Union, if improved, tourist facilities supplied and good roads established to and from this wonder spot in our county.

Those of our citizens who are interested greatly in the promotion of the Original Lincoln Country, our county's richest asset, should turn their attention to this project immediately. We should have our County Officials pushing this work so that with the coming of good weather this spring needed improvements may be started and pushed to early completion.

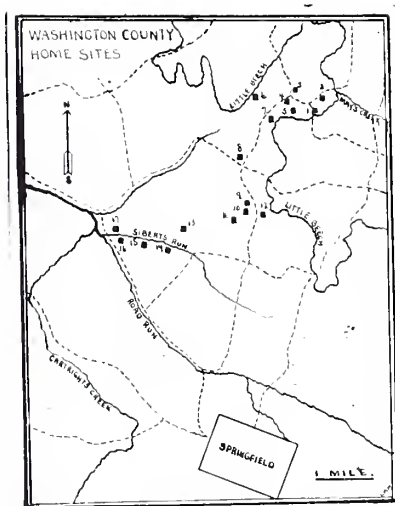
During the past year a special grant was secured for improvement of Lincoln Shrine here and this appropriation, which represents many thousand dollars, will be lost if not taken advantage of before the end of the present fiscal year.

Are we to let this project slip from our grasp after having gone so far as to secure State and National recognition? Washington Countians are not so constituted, we believe, and our officials are not inclined to overlook that which means so much to the welfare of our county. All are sufficiently imbued with public spirit to push this project to a successful conclusion, if we do not misjudge them.

In this connection, it has been stated several additional sites will be taken over by the State if deeds to same can be secured. Among the number is the original home of Francis Berry, which should be preserved to posterity

as one of the priceless relics of an age so rich in historic value to our county.





## A REAL MEMORIAL

NINETY years ago the new settlers in central Illinois believed the Sangamon river, a little stream which rises south of Springfield and flows north and east to add its quota to the waters of the Illinois, was destined to be one of the highways of commerce in that part of the land. That it was, indeed, to gain immortal fame among earth's rivers—for a far different reason—never for a moment occurred to those pioneers.

They saw it as a natural provision for easy transportation of their grain and pork to the markets of the south. In fancy they beheld it fringed with thriving towns—such dreams always abound in fresh-plowed places—and when James Rutledge and John Cameron in 1829 founded the village of New Salem on one of the hills strung along the left bank of the Sangamon twenty miles from Springfield, they foresaw what never came to pass—a thriving center of human activities which would bring them enough of fortune and fame.

Fortune chose another path across those fruitful prairies; but fame, tho of a different sort from any they had in their minds, came that way and stopped long enough to send the name of New Salem marching magnificently down the centuries.

She is a strange pilgrim, is fame, and chooses curious disguises. It could not have occurred to any of the hundred dwellers in the fifteen houses at New Salem that the tall, lean flatboat man who interested them one April afternoon in 1831 was to make each of them memorable because of his later relation to them as a neighbor.

In company with two other youths, this young stranger was taking a flatboat to New Orleans. At New Salem was a mill dam. On it the boat stuck, and there hung for nearly twenty-four hours, stern in the water and bow in the air. The whole town turned out to see, generous with suggestions and advice. Finally the people became aware that the tallest member of the crew was silently thinking out a plan of relief.

"Having unloaded the cargo into a neighboring boat, this youth succeeded in tilting his craft. Then, by boring a hole in the end extending over the dam, the water was let out. This done, the boat was easily shoved over and reloaded. The ingenuity which he had exercised in saving his boat made a deep impression on the crowd on the bank, and it was talked over for many a day. The proprietor of boat and cargo was even more enthusiastic than the spectators, and vowed he would build a steamboat for the Sangamon and make this young man captain of it."

It is a prophetic matter of record that a month later, while viewing an auction sale of women slaves in New Orleans, this same young man turned from the scene and said to his companions: "Boys, let's get away from this. If I ever get a chance to hit that thing" (meaning slavery), "I'll hit it hard."

In July, 1831, three months after the flatboat episode at the dam, this stranger was back at New Salem, where, as he later said, he stopped indefinitely and for the first time, as it were, by himself. The man for whom he had built and navigated the boat had engaged him to manage a general store to be started in the village, but the stock was late arriving, and for several weeks he loafed around the place, taking a hand in any work that needed to be done and making himself popular with his good stories.

On lot 14 north of Main street a store building was put up that summer, and along in September Denton Offutt's new clerk, Abraham Lincoln, began his experience as a merchant.

The folk roundabout were friendly and good natured; "they could trench a pond, dig a bog, build a house, they could pray and fight, make a village or create a state. They would do almost anything for sport or fun, love or necessity. Tho rude and rough, tho life's forces ran over the edge of the bowl, foaming and sparkling in pure deviltry for deviltry's sake, yet place before them a poor man who needed their aid, a lame or sick man, a defenseless woman, a widow or an orphaned child, and they melted into sympathy and charity at once. They gave all they had, and willingly toiled or played cards for more."



Business wasn't brisk in Offutt's store, and the clerk had time to tell many a story; to lick Jack Armstrong, famed as the most powerful twister in the county; to wallop a husky stranger who came into the place one day and began swearing in the presence of a woman—and to fall in love with the beautiful Ann Rutledge. There, too, in the village whose great expectations were so soon to be blasted, he said goodby to her forever.

As storekeeper, student, soldier, postmaster and surveyor, he entered into the life of the place and became its leading light. "A stranger, a friendless, uneducated, penniless boy, working on a flatboat at \$10 a month"—that is the description Lincoln gave of himself as he arrived at New Salem in 1831. Six years later he left there to take up the practice of law at Springfield. In that brief interval the uncouth, unlettered youth had become a man of promise and acknowledged ability.

As if brought into existence simply to serve him on the long road he was to take alone—one cannot help feeling Fate purposely staged this scene—the village of New Salem began to decline soon after his departure, and within eight years had ceased to exist.

Philemon Morris, the tanner; Joshua Miller, the blacksmith and wagon maker; Alexander Ferguson and Peter Lukins, the cobblers; Robert Johnson, wheelwright; Martin Waddell, hatter, and Jack Kelso, whose wife kept boarders, one by one drifted to other communities. Doctor Allen, who long was vexed as to whether it was right or wrong to visit the sick on Sundays, and finally compromised the matter by so doing and giving his earnings on that day only to the work of the Lord; Henry Onstott, the cooper, and James Rutledge, the innkeeper, took to new trails, and New Salem became a memory even before it had grown old.

Not one of its houses but had some intimate relation to Lincoln's life. Not one of its dwellers but knew him as "Abe" and felt sorry for him when he failed as a storekeeper. Yet by the time he was elected to congress, in 1846, such of the log structures as had not been torn down were falling prey to wind and weather. What seemed to be the last chapter in New Salem's history had been written, tho it is not always easy to know when "finis" means the end.

For if any reader of these words were now to visit that sharp bend in the Sangamon which skirts the base of Salem Hill, he would see the vanished village reappearing, and within a year it will be possible for all who choose to look upon it just as it was when Lincoln lived there.

Thru the efforts of the Old Salem Lincoln League, an organization formed four years ago, the New Salem of 1831-37 is being rebuilt—the log cabins, the general stores and the old mills, just as they were so long ago. It is being reconstructed to serve as a public park, and thus preserve for posterity the atmosphere and environment that helped make Lincoln, the man. With the aid of old maps, old prints, old deeds—all the records patient search could reveal—it is hoped to make the new village an exact counterpart of the original.

The site was given by William R. Hearst for this purpose. Some of the foundations were found to be partly intact, and where possible these are being made use of. The whole scheme is to bring back the village of Lincoln's day; to reproduce it to the last possible detail, and let it serve as a shrine whose very silence will speak to the soul of every person who sees it.

Only a little money, as sums now are measured, was needed for this purpose—some \$20,000. And among the contributors to this fund was David Lloyd George, who at the unveiling of the Lincoln statue near Westminster Abbey last August said:

I doubt whether any statesman who ever lived sank so deeply into the hearts of the people of many lands as Abraham Lincoln did. I am not sure that you in America realize the extent to which he is also our possession and our pride. His courage, fortitude, patience, humanity, clemency, his trust in the people, his belief in democracy, and, may I add, some of the phrases in which he gave expression to those attributes, will stand out forever as beacons to guide troubled nations and their perplexed leaders. Resolute in war, he was moderate in victory. Misrepresented, misunderstood, underestimated, he was patient to the last. But the people believed in him all the time, and they still believe in him.

In his life he was a great American. He is an American no longer. He is one of those giant figures, of whom there are very few in history, who lose their nationality in death. They are no longer Greek or Hebrew or English or American—they belong to mankind.

The new village of New Salem will, in our estimation, be one of the fittest and most inspiring of all memorials that could be raised to this man. Surely, no one can walk among its houses without a new sense of the simplicity and sublimeness of the stranger who, on his way to the summit, paused there long enough to make every foot of that ground full of meaning and sacred.

# SPRINGFIELD

KENTUCKY



The  
Original  
Lincoln  
Country



▲ Lincoln Homestead State  
Park—home of the first  
Lincolns in Kentucky

◀ Washington County Court  
House—  
built in 1816

Springfield is the County Seat of  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
First County Established (1792) by the  
Commonwealth of Kentucky



St. Catharine Academy and Junior College and St. Catharine Mother House.



A modern swimming pool affords this type of recreation. Many fine streams available for fishing.



Below is a modern motel. Springfield also has two hotels — for your home-away-from-home. Several restaurants serve fine foods.



Excellent crops of Kentucky's finest Burley tobacco are produced on the fertile lands of Washington County. Splendid pasturelands provide grazing many months of the year and cattle raising is a major industry — \$90,000 is paid each month to dairy farmers in the county.



## Lincoln Facts

**S**PRINGFIELD, Washington County, is truly the original Lincoln Country. Ten years before Kentucky was admitted to the Union the first Lincolns settled about five miles from where the town is located.

On a one-hundred-acre tract through which Lincoln Run wends its way, Abraham Lincoln, the elder, made his home until killed by Indians in 1788. His family continued to live on the place until 1802.

Lincoln Homestead State Park is located north of Springfield on the Lincoln land. The park was dedicated June 12, 1934, and may be reached on Ky. 528. The site of the home of Rev. Jesse Head, who married President Lincoln's parents, is on this route.

Lincoln homestead cabin stands on the spot where the original cabin stood. Here Thomas Lincoln, the father of the President, was reared and lived until he was twenty-five years of age. The original marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks is preserved with other interesting papers and documents pertaining to the Lincolns in the County Clerk's Office.

A visit to Lincoln Homestead Park is a must on your tour of Central Kentucky. The park is carefully preserved in the natural scenic setting and the Cabins are furnished in pioneer style. The Lincoln family atmosphere is evident. You'll never forget your visit to this famous shrine.

*Springfield is the home of other famous figures on the national scene such as Elizabeth Maddox Roberts, in the literary field, John Simms "Shipwreck" Kelly and Paul Derringer, great sports figures.*



**S**PRINGFIELD has three modern banking houses with assets amounting to more than \$10,000,000. It is one of the largest Burley tobacco markets in the state with six large sales houses and a large re-drying plant. Packing houses are maintained and operated by major companies.

Springfield is located on US highway 150 and on Ky. 55 and Ky. 53. It is served by the L&N RR and by Greyhound Bus.

The Presbyterian Church was established in 1792 and is the oldest in the county. General Matthew Walton gave the land and the first church, built of logs, was known as Road's Run Church. Today's edifice occupies the original site.

St. Rose Priory, founded in 1806, was the first Catholic educational institution West of the Alleghenies. One of the famous names on its roster is that of Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

St. Catharine Mother House, established in 1822, is the first community of Dominican Sisters in the U. S. It is today the Mother Community of the Order.

Here you may revel in history, relax in comfort — you may play golf on the historic Lincoln lands — a sporty nine-hole course interlaces the graceful hills.

*Springfield is a growing town — rich in tradition — with its sights on the future!*





The Presbyterian Church



St. Rose Priory



The Methodist Church



St. Dominic's Catholic Church



The Baptist Church

*Springfield's  
Beautiful  
Churches*



The Christian Church

# SPRINGFIELD

## KENTUCKY

A hand-drawn map of the Louisville area and surrounding regions. The map features several cities and towns: Louisville, Frankfort, Lexington, Lawrenceburg, Bardstown, Harrodsburg, Danville, Perryville, Lebanon, and Springfield. Major highways are marked with shields: 150, 31E, 35, 68, 55, 49, and 68. Key landmarks and areas include 'The Kentucky Derby', 'Horse Country' (with a horse illustration), 'Fort Harrod', 'The Original Lincoln Country' (with a person on horseback illustration), 'My Old Kentucky Home' (with a house illustration), 'Springfield', 'To Lincoln Memorial', 'To Cave Country', 'To Lake Cumberland', and 'Constitution Square'. A compass rose is located on the left side of the map.

Springfield, although old as measured by time, has kept pace with modernization of its business establishments, city and county governmental affairs.

for information write:  
**SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
**Springfield, Kentucky**

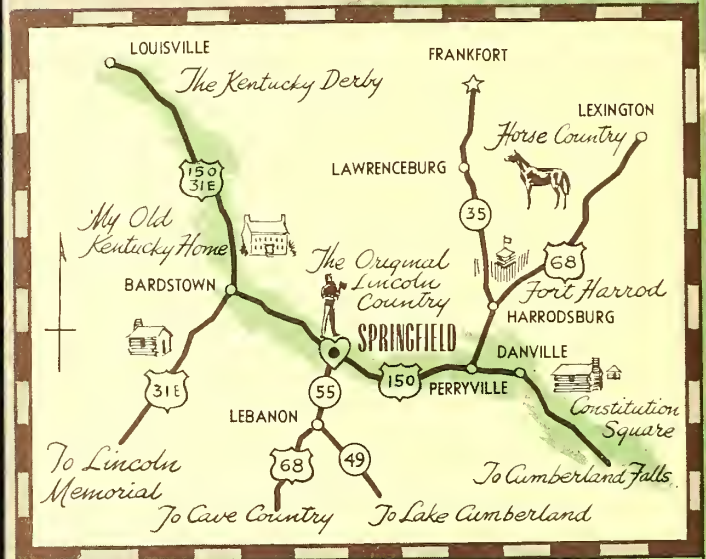


*in the original Lincoln Country*

# SPRINGFIELD

## KENTUCKY

*One of the Oldest Towns in the State*  
(Established 1793)



Near the geographical center of Kentucky — 58 miles southeast of Louisville and 59 miles southwest of Lexington . . .

Springfield, although old as measured by time, has kept pace with modernization of its business establishments, city and county governmental affairs.

The town operates its own water and sewer systems. Its public and parochial schools rank among the best. There are churches here of almost all denominations with large and active memberships.

for information write:

**SPRINGFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Springfield, Kentucky

# LINCOLN HOMESTEAD



STATE  
PARK



Springfield, Kentucky

LINCOLN CABIN

BERRY HOUSE

BLACKSMITH SHOP



## **LINCOLN HOMESTEAD State Park**

The park is located six miles north of Springfield, off Kentucky Highway 55.

A replica of the log cabin of Abraham Lincoln, grandfather of the Great Emancipator, is situated on the site where he lived in 1782. Another log house, the one in which Nancy Hanks lived during her courtship with Thomas Lincoln, has been moved and rebuilt at the shrine. The President's grandfather was killed by Indians, but his grandmother continued to live in Washington County, where she reared five children, one of them Thomas, father of the Civil War leader. The two cabins are filled with pioneer relics of the Lincoln age. Split rail fences are situated in the park.

A gift shop and excellent golf course are also located here.

### **ADMISSION TO PARK**

Adults 25¢

Children 10¢

### **HISTORY OF LINCOLN HOMESTEAD STATE PARK**

Lincoln Homestead State Park is six miles North of Springfield, the county seat of Washington County, Kentucky. Springfield is located on U. S. Highway No. 150, and on Kentucky Highways No. 55, 53, and 152. The shortest route to the park is over Highway 155 which leaves Springfield at the intersection of Main and Cross Streets. The Washington County Court House, erected in 1816, is located at this intersection.

Located in the original Lincoln County of Kentucky, Lincoln Homestead State Park was dedicated in 1943, and contains, among other things, a replica of the first Lincoln home in Kentucky, in which Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, was reared, and the Francis Berry home in which Abraham Lincoln's parents were married. Washington County is the repository of much Lincoln history, tradition and data.

In 1782, ten years before Kentucky became a state, the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln built a home on a small creek that became known as Lincoln's Run. In company with other pioneer families, he, his wife Bersheba, and five children came from Virginia to settle on a 100-acre tract of land conveyed to him by Richard Berry, Sr., from his grant of 600 acres.

While hunting in the vicinity of his cabin, Abraham Lincoln, Sr. was killed by an Indian in 1788, and was buried nearby. His widow and children lived in the original home until 1802.

Near Lincoln Homestead State Park is the home of Richard Berry, Sr., whose wife, Rachel Shipley Berry, was the aunt of Nancy Hanks, who came to live in the Berry home in 1790. Nancy Hanks remained in the Richard Berry home until the death of her aunt in 1804, when she went to the home of her cousin, Francis Berry, where she was married to Thomas Lincoln on June 12, 1806.



*Memorial to Nancy Hanks Lincoln—Springfield, Ky.*

In the County Clerk's Office in Springfield are the marriage bond of Thomas Lincoln, signed by him and Richard Berry, Jr., and the minister's certificate of the Reverend Jesse Head, who performed the ceremony. Other records include tax lists and original signatures and marriage bonds of other members of the Lincoln family. An official document showing that the President's grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, was a resident of Washington County at the time he was killed, is the appraisement of his estate in 1789, which is filed in the County Clerk's Office at Bardstown, Kentucky. At that time, Washington County was a part of Nelson County.



After you visit Lincoln Homestead, here are other state parks you will enjoy.

WILLIAM WHITLEY HOUSE	Stanford
CONSTITUTION SQUARE	Danville
FORT HARROD	Harrodsburg
MY OLD KENTUCKY HOME	Bardstown
LINCOLN MEMORIAL	Hodgenville
PERRYVILLE BATTLEFIELD	Perryville
LAKE CUMBERLAND STATE PARK	Jamestown
CUMBERLAND FALLS STATE PARK	Corbin
ISAAC SHELBY MEMORIAL	Danville

**Other Facilities Available:**

**Golf:** A nine-hole golf course is located at the park. There is also a club house.

**Picnicking:** Picnicking facilities are available, and the grounds are beautiful at every season.

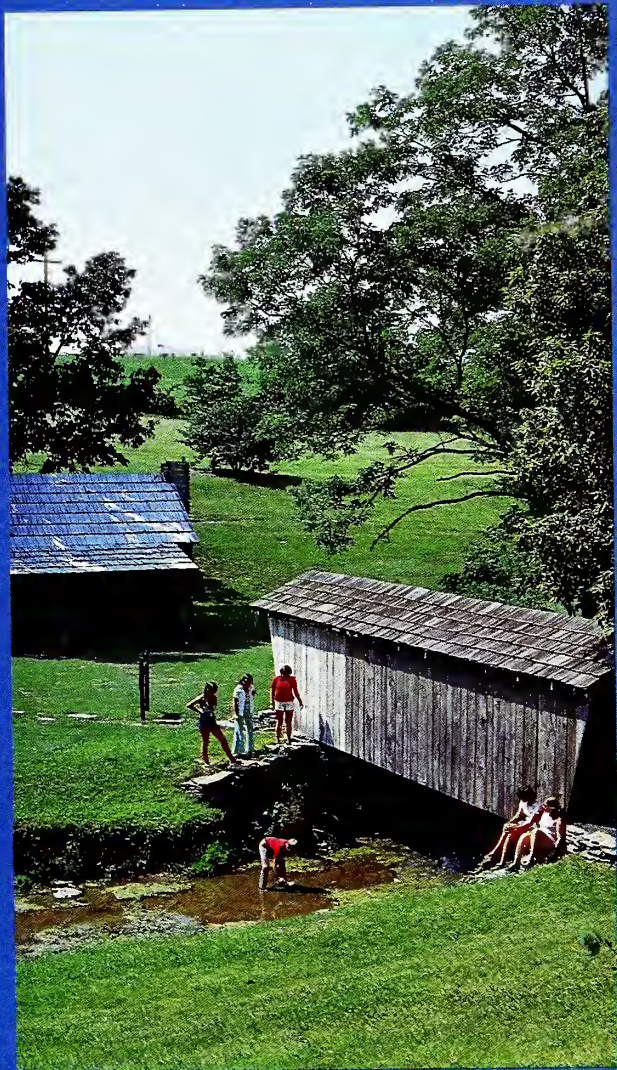
Living accommodations and eating facilities are available in nearby Springfield. Excellent roads lead into the area, and many other historical spots are located nearby.

Many historic homes and scenes are found in this vicinity. The nearby countryside is typically Bluegrass. Information on the area surrounding Lincoln Homestead may be obtained at the park.

A souvenir and gift shop is located in the park. A curator is on duty and guided tours are available.

# Kentucky's Lincoln Homestead

STATE PARK / SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY





Lincoln Homestead State Park, in Washington County in Kentucky's Lincoln country, is a repository of fascinating Lincoln lore.

Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, grew to manhood here. Within the park grounds are a reproduction of the cabin that was his boyhood home; the original Francis Berry House, where Nancy Hanks lived for 14 years; and a replica of the blacksmith and carpenter shop where Thomas Lincoln learned his trade. Split-rail fences and pioneer furniture made by Thomas Lincoln and his contemporaries fill out the picture of rugged pioneer life.

#### **The Lincoln Cabin**

is a replica of the log house in which the President's grandmother raised her children, and rests on the same spot as the original cabin. Furnished in pioneer style, it contains several pieces of furniture made by Thomas Lincoln. Its logs are over 100 years old.

#### **The Berry House**

is the actual building in which Nancy

Hanks, mother of President Lincoln, lived during her courtship with Thomas Lincoln. The house has been moved from the Beechland section, about a mile away. In the living room, before the immense fireplace, Tom proposed to Nancy. On display are pioneer relics and photostatic copies of the marriage bond of the President's parents.

#### **The Blacksmith Shop**

is a reproduction of the building in which Tom Lincoln learned woodworking. His teachers, Richard and Francis Berry, were both master craftsmen. Here some of the tools and materials of the Lincoln era are exhibited. The shop stands at the rear of the homestead cabin, near the creek.

#### **A Fieldstone Enclosure**

was placed here by the Federal Government in 1939 (before the area became a Kentucky state park), as a memorial to Nancy Hanks.

Thomas Lincoln, as he grew up on this land, naturally learned to farm and this was always his primary source of livelihood. He

The Blacksmith Shop



The Lincoln Cabin





also learned woodworking, carpentry, and cabinetmaking, and was in addition a "farm surgeon." Tom lived on his mother's farm until 1803, when he moved to Hardin County.

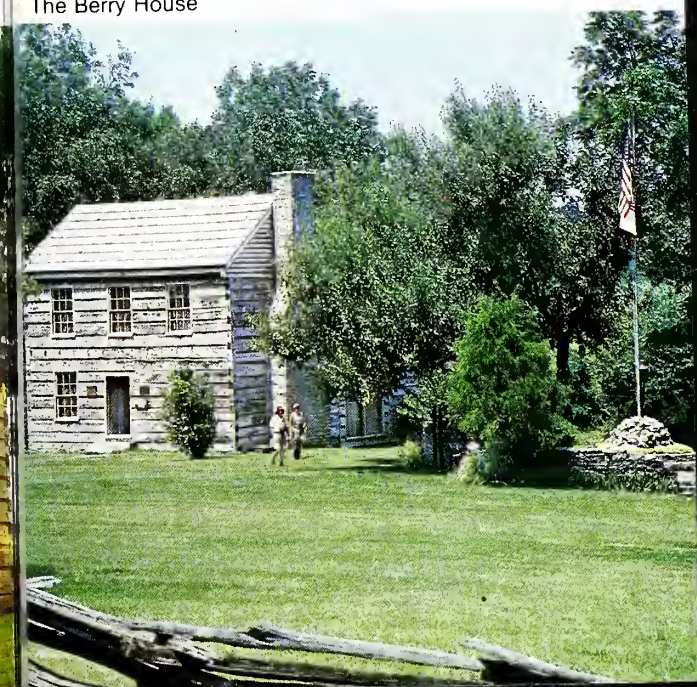
Tom Lincoln knew Nancy Hanks, who was to become the President's mother, from childhood. Nancy had come into the neighborhood in 1790 to live with her aunt, Rachel Berry. Rachel's husband, Richard Berry, was Nancy's cousin.

According to tradition, the brothers Richard and Francis Berry were Tom's teachers in woodworking, and he got his "trade-school" training in their combined blacksmith and carpentry shop.

Thomas Lincoln returned to Washington County when he was 25; and on June 12, 1806, he and Nancy were married. Their first home was in Elizabethtown.

In 1808 they moved to the Sinking Spring Farm, near the present town of Hodgenville, where Abraham Lincoln was born on February 12, 1809.

The Berry House







The Pro Shop

**Mailing Address:**

Lincoln Homestead State Park  
Springfield, Kentucky 40069

**Telephone Number:**

(606) 336-3083 Superintendent  
(606) 336-7461 Pro Shop

**Location:**

5 miles north of Springfield off US-150 on KY-528.

**Accessibility:**

The Blue Grass Parkway is 12 miles north via KY-555.

**Acreage:**

153 acres.

**Gift Shop:**

Centrally located near the museum-cabins.

**Museum:**

Consists of three cabins significant during the Lincoln era.

**Golf:**

18-hole course; pro shop, featuring latest golf merchandise and equipment; golf cart rentals. Year-round.

**Picnicking:**

Shelter, tables, grills, restrooms and a parking area.

**Playground:**

Located by the picnic shelter.

**Snack bar:**

Located in the pro shop.

# Kentucky's Lincoln Homestead

STATE PARK / SPRINGFIELD, KENTUCKY





